

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 12 October, 1998.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs B Antrobus.

Apologies: Councillor Armitage, City Councillor B J Bailey.

Present: Councillors Antrobus, Arditti, Astbury, Fisher, Gartland, Hughes, Whitehouse.

In attendance: City Councillor J R Boughton, County Councillor N J Fitton.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 September, 1998 were proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Mrs Astbury and agreed subject to the deletion of Councillor Gartland from the list of those Members present and to the addition of "written' before 'report' in line 21 of minute 2 (i).

2. Planning.

(i) New applications.

98/00829/FUL, extension to front and rear at 8 Guilden Green for Mr M Owen. Further enquiries had been made by Councillor Hughes. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 22 September, 1998, of copy correspondence from City Councillor B J Bailey, an adjoining occupier, supporting the application. It was agreed no objection should be raised, subject to materials being in keeping. (see decision notice below).

98/00989/OUT, demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new dwelling at Woodcote, Wicker Lane for Mr J Cox. Further inquiries had been made by the Chairman. It was noted the structure was in a dangerous condition and had not been habited for two years. Concerns had been raised by the adjoining occupier as to overlooking, the retention of the agricultural status of the lower part of the garden and the possible effect on

the roadside hedgerow of visibility works. It was agreed that no objection should be raised subject to the replacement dwelling being not materially larger than the existing and of bungalow or chalet type design with a similar ridge height to the present.

A copy of the planning officer's report had been obtained by the Clerk which recommended approval, subject to the replacement being not materially larger and single storey. It was noted the highway authority had objected due to the access being unsuitable and the site frontage being insufficient to allow satisfactory visibility splays to be provided.

City Councillor J R Boughton commented.

98/01119/FUL, construction of pitched roofs and provision of chimney stack at Roewen, Belle Vue Lane for J M R Construction. Following a report by the Vice Chairman, it was agreed no objection should be raised.

98/01128/FUL, conservatory at Oakdene, 3 School Lane for Mr and Mrs Birtles. Following a report by Councillor Gartland, it was agreed no objection should be raised. The Vice Chairman referred to the application site being within the green belt and the impact of the proposal.

98/01155/FUL, replacement of flat roof with pitched tiled roof at 28 Oaklands for Mr M Gartland. Councillor Gartland declared an interest as the applicant and left the room. It was agreed further inquiries would be made by the Vice Chairman.

Councillor Gartland returned to the room.

(ii) Decision notices.

98/00829/FUL, extension to front and rear at 8 Guilden Green for Mr M Owen.

98/00994/FUL, bay window to rear at Loughrigg, 12 Oaklands for Mr R M Armitage.

98/00831/FUL, conversion of double garage into living accommodation at 10 Middlecroft for Mr and Mrs B Leroux. It was noted the provision and permanent retention of a minimum of three car parking spaces within the curtilage had been

required by condition. (see also below).

(iii) Current applications.

95/01046/FUL, COU of redundant farm buildings to 8 no dwellings, swimming pool, tennis court, garages, driveway and improvements to the highway at The Byatts, Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. Nothing further to report.

95/01052/FUL, alterations to dwelling and COU to form garden at The Bungalow, Church Lane for Mrs. C Jones. The proposed improvement to the remaining area of open space adjoining the footway from Church Lane to Fox Cover would be pursued following the erection of the permanent fencing to the application site.

96/00359/FUL, children's day nursery, Wildings Yard for A V Wilding (Chester) Ltd. Improvements to the hard landscaping at the access to the site were welcomed.

97/01302/FUL, extension at 1 Vicarage Close for Mr L Stephani. The Clerk was pursuing a course of action which might assist with determining the ownership of the access between nos. 1 and 3 Vicarage Close.

97/01146/S73, extension of time period for erection of underground reservoir, Guilden Sutton

Lane for Chester Waterworks Co. The decision notice was awaited.

98/00445/COU, change of use of land to incorporate a new vehicular access road to segregate car park from yard at Topaz Hair Cosmetics, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Council had maintained their objection together with their view that no justification had been made as to why the access, if approved, could not be located on the south side of the poplar screen, for which a TPO had been sought. Enforcement action had also been sought on any construction which had proceeded without the benefit of planning permission and the Environment Agency had been requested to advise on the unbanded storage of drums in the open air. Advice had been sought from the planning authority as to the height of the security fencing and regular enforcement visits had been requested. Adjoining occupiers had been informed of the action taken by the Council and copies of

all the relevant correspondence had been forwarded to City Councillors B J Bailey and J R Boughton.

The Clerk reported the receipt of copy correspondence dated 9 September, 1998 from adjoining occupiers to the planning authority objecting to the application.

He informed Members of the receipt by e mail dated 17 September, 1998 of advice from the enforcement officer as to the laying of a concrete hardstanding base to accommodate waste disposal skips together with a low breeze block wall to delineate the positioning of the skips which did not require planning permission. Similarly the security fencing did not require approval. An assurance had been given that the site was monitored on a regular basis by officers and that local information could assist officers to identify any alleged breaches most effectively. This was noted.

Advice had also been received, by e mail dated 9 September, 1998, that the possibility of a TPO for the poplar screen was being considered although poplars generally were not protected due to their short life span. It was anticipated, however, that a condition to protect the trees would be imposed by the planning officer.

98/00512/FUL, (amended application), construction of 2 no four bedroom bungalows with double garages and access alterations between Ranelagh and The Wood, School Lane for LRM Ltd.

98/00544/FUL, (amended application) conservatory at 12 Middlecroft for Mr K Bode.

98/00585/FUL, replacement of flat roofs with pitched and construction of store at 30 Oaklands for Mr E Alsop.

98/00589/FUL, installation of 22.5m telecommunications radio tower, equipment cabin and new access track at Dee Valley Reservoir, Guilden Sutton Lane for Cellnet. The Clerk reported he had been unable to elicit an explanation from the Highways Agency as to their unpreparedness to enter into agreement for the mast to be sited on highway land. The reasons for this were being pursued and a response was awaited.

98/00659/COU, sand menage at Willow Cottage, Guilden Sutton Lane for Mr G Hudson and Ms A Roose.

98/00678/FUL conservatory at Thornleigh, Church Lane for Mr G Worthington.

98/00729/FUL, creation of foot/cycleway Mickle Trafford - Dee Marsh junction for Sustrans. The planning authority had been informed the Council would be minded to withdraw their objection subject to confirmation the Park Farm link had been included. A copy of the planning officer's report had been obtained by the Clerk which recommended approval. He reported the receipt, by letter dated 11 September, of advice from City Councillor J R Boughton as to the outcome of a friendly and constructive meeting between the landowner, Sustrans, the chairman of the City Council Cycle Working Party and City Councillor Boughton to discuss the Park Farm link. It was unlikely the landowner would withdraw his reservations as to the cycle link although an alternative had emerged. This was noted.

Councillor Hughes said he had discussed the position with the landowner and referred to the status of the access from the railway bridge at Park Farm to Guilden Sutton Lane. It was noted that increased use of a link from Guilden Sutton Lane to the CDTs could result in parking at this point which would be totally inappropriate and most undesirable.

City Councillor J R Boughton indicated the application would be considered by the full council and confirmed the Park Farm link had been included. He was hopeful of a satisfactory conclusion to the negotiations with the landowner.

98/00831/FUL, conversion of double garage into living accommodation at 10 Middlecroft for Mr and Mrs B Leroux. The advice of the planning authority had been sought as to the impact of the loss of the garage on the amenity of adjoining occupiers and the locality which might constitute sufficient grounds for an objection. A response had been received from the development control manager, by e mail dated 9 September, indicating there was no government advice which required a dwelling to have a garage. In a large number of cases, planning permission was not required for such a change with the only criteria being whether or not on street parking would arise to the detriment of highway safety.

The Vice Chairman believed the effect of such developments on the character of the locality was sufficient to merit a change to the planning guidance and it was agreed this would be raised, in

the first instance, at the Area Meeting. He firmly believed that garages should be provided.

98/00874/OUT, proposed bungalow and garage at Ashbourne House, Hare Lane for Mr N Hassall. The proposal had been opposed on green belt grounds and the City Council asked to require the present use of the site for the parking of vehicles and skips to cease. The Clerk reported the receipt of copy correspondence dated 9 September, 1998 from City Councillor J R Boughton to the planning officer opposing the application and raising the issue of the parking of skips. The decision notice was awaited.

City Councillor J R Boughton commented that both he and City Councillor B J Bailey supported the withdrawal of the skips.

(iv) General:

(a) Parish Planning Forum: planning guidelines. The Clerk indicated as Honorary Secretary to the Chester Area Meeting there was nothing further to report at this stage. It was still understood the printed version would be available at the annual Parish Partnership Reception in November.

(b) Standard planning conditions. It was agreed these should be circulated, commencing with Councillor Hughes.

(c) Telecommunications development control. A report obtained by the Clerk would be referred to Councillor Armitage.

(d) House extensions in the green belt. A copy of this report, prepared by a Cheshire planning authority and obtained by the Clerk, was received and noted.

(e) Chester City Council, review of fees and charges. The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter dated

24 September, 1998 from City Councillor J R Boughton as to a proposal for charges to be made for the inspection of documents relating to previous planning applications which would have applied to parish councils and which City Councillor Boughton had successfully resisted. This was welcomed.

City Councillor J R Boughton expressed his pleasure that Parishes

would be exempted from the charges.

(f) Planning applications. Councillor Hughes reported that following then annual meeting of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils, he believed it would be helpful for a Note to appear in the newsletter explaining the need for planning applications. This was agreed.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Chester District Local Plan.

(i) Representations. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Proposed cycleway. See planning application 98/00729/FUL above.

(b) Cheshire 2011 (i) draft modifications. Councillor Armitage had reported to the Clerk on the draft modifications and indicated that no further action was required. (ii) City Council response. The Clerk had obtained a copy of this report which was noted.

(c) Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan.

(i) Seminar. It had not been possible for the Council to be represented at the seminar organised by Bunbury Green Watch and Local Agenda 21 Waste Action Groups in Cheshire held in Bunbury on Saturday 26 September, 1998. It was noted the organisers had expressed their disappointment at a lack of support from parish councils in correspondence in the press. The Clerk pointed out the extremely successful seminar organised by the Chester Area Meeting in May had covered much the same ground

(ii) Less waste, more value. Councillor Armitage had considered this report and had reported to the Clerk that at this stage the Council should note the position.

(e) Chester District Landscape Assessment. Councillor Gartland

commented on this progress report which had been obtained by the Clerk.

3. Parish Car Park.

(i) Trees and Shrubs. The Clerk would contact the Cheshire Landscape Trust as to the availability of shrubs for planting within the car park.

(ii) Maintenance. The Clerk indicated it had not been possible for the contractor to attend the proposed site meeting on Saturday 19 September. An alternative date was awaited.

(iii) Litter. Concern was expressed by the Vice Chairman as to the quantity of litter in the car park and on the playing field. This was noted.

4. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field.

(a) Condition of surface. Nothing further to report.

(b) Notice. With respect to the use of the field by residents exercising their dogs, the Clerk confirmed a notice was being prepared prohibiting the use of the field by dogs or for the playing of golf.

(ii) Play Area.

(a) Safety inspections. The Clerk reported the receipt of a satisfactory safety report dated 22 September, 1998.

(b) Safety surfacing. Following a report by Councillor Gartland, it was agreed the contractor would be asked to rake and level the safety surfacing and to trim the boundary hedging.

(c) Nuisance. Nothing further to report at this stage. Inquiries as to the possible meeting with Christleton, Littleton and Mickle Trafford to discuss nuisance youths would be progressed by the Clerk.

(d) Possible transfer. A response was awaited from the City Council as to the possible transfer of responsibility for the play

area on the basis of the double rating argument.

(e) Public seat. The need for a further public seat in the play area, raised at the previous meeting, would be revisited as part of the budget preparation.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Paths Partnership. The Mid Cheshire Footpath Society were being informed of the Council's view that a diversion order was not necessary in respect of Guilden Sutton no 5/Great Barrow no 2 as described in the parish paths leaflet.

Councillor Hughes reported a seat had been provided on footpath no 7 using recycled materials. This was welcomed..

(b) Footpath no 2. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the intended surface dressing although the hope had been expressed to the District Engineer that resurfacing would be possible. With respect to the persistent fouling, it was understood a mechanical sweep, which had been requested, had been carried out. The matter was also to be included in a future newsletter.

(c) Pond Life Project. A copy of the September 1998 issue of the newsletter was received and noted.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. Further to minute 5 (v) of the previous meeting, the Clerk reported he was pursuing the helpful advice received from City Councillor J R Boughton.

Councillor Gartland expressed satisfaction at the standard of grounds maintenance carried out in the parish on behalf of the City Council by Cliff Evans. The City Council would be informed.

5. Public Transport.

(i) Services: general.

(a) Sunday Service to Guilden Sutton. The results of the extended experimental period had been considered by the Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee. City Councillor J R Boughton reported the service was to be retained for a further period of six months but was then likely to be

withdrawn due to lack of patronage. He had circulated a letter to the residents of Summerfield House drawing their attention to the position. The Clerk would arrange further publicity in the newsletter.

(b) Punctuality. Councillor Mrs Astbury indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(c) 1710 ex Chester Bus Exchange. In response to the concerns of the Vice Chairman as to the lack of transparency concerning the numbering and departure arrangements for this service, the matter had been drawn to the attention of Chester City Transport which had indicated that a reference to Guilden Sutton would be included where vehicles were fitted with electronic indicators.

(ii) Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee. See 5 (i) (a) above.

(iii) Bus Shelters. The Clerk reported a reputable contractor had been identified who already carried out glass cleaning for two other organisations within the parish. A satisfactory estimate had been received for the cleaning of the glazing in the three shelters on a quarterly basis and this had been accepted after consultation with the Chairman who was also aware of the standard of the company's work.

(iv) New Government funding for public transport. Nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) District Wide Accessible Transport. A report on this initiative had been received and was referred to Councillor Mrs Astbury.

(vi) Rural Transport Partnership. Details of this new initiative to promote innovative new schemes in rural areas were received and referred to Councillor Mrs Astbury.

6. Highways.

(i) Major schemes. The Clerk indicated there was nothing to report. 98/99 069

(ii) Local matters.

(a) A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. Members would endeavour to note the number of incidences of more than one vehicle seeking to cross at any one time in order to enable an assessment of the scale of the problem.

(b) Footway, Wicker Lane. It was understood the obstruction of the footway close to the junction with Cinder Lane arising from the branches of trees in an adjoining property had been resolved.

The planting of hedge to the frontage of two properties in Wicker Lane which it was believed would encroach onto the highway verge was being referred to the District Engineer.

(c) Speed limit, Guilden Sutton Lane. The letter received from Mr C White requesting enforcement of the 40 mph speed limit had been referred to the Police. It was understood an officer had visited and that Mr White had reiterated his concerns. A reply had been made to Mr White pointing out the limit had the full support of all Members of the Council.

(d) Moorcroft Crescent. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the reconstruction of the foot and carriageways.

(e) Footway - Middlecroft. The District Engineer had been informed of the Council's disappointment at the impact of reductions in the maintenance budget.

(f) Grass cutting - Heath Bank. The District Engineer and Councillor had been thanked for his attendance at Heath Bank to discuss concerns as to the maintenance of the area with Councillor Mrs Astbury.

(g) Condition - Wicker Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the monitoring of the condition of Wicker Lane promised by the District Engineer.

(h) Street nameplates - Oaklands. Action by the City Council to attend to the poor condition of the street nameplates at the entrance to Oaklands opposite The Wood was awaited.

(i) District Engineer. The District Engineer had been thanked for his extremely helpful meeting.

(j) Belle Vue Lane - verge maintenance. There was nothing

further to report as this stage as to the District Engineer's inquiries concerning the maintenance of the verge opposite The Orchards.

(k) Belle Vue Lane - maintenance. The District Engineer had been made aware of the Council's hope that some resurfacing of Belle Vue Lane might be possible.

(l) Footway - Cinder Lane. It was understood the obstruction of this footway by the adjoining hedge had been dealt with although the difficulties arising from the collapse of the adjoining boundary fencing remained

(m) Verge - Guilden Sutton Lane. An appropriate response was being made to the occupier of no 64 Guilden Sutton Lane.

(n) Local Joint Highways Committee for Chester, local speed limits. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence dated 30 September, 1998 from County Councillor N J Fitton indicating he had raised the issue of speed limits with the committee at their meeting on 24 September, 1998 which had supported a new look at the criteria which were used to determine limits. It was agreed that representations would be made to the highway authority.

County Councillor Fitton advised the Council that the issue of speed limits was becoming more important and was to be considered by the full County Council. He referred to an initiative in Suffolk where 30 mph limits had been introduced in all villages in the county and which had led to a reduction in vehicle speeds.

(o) Road surface, Guilden Sutton Lane. The egress of water across the carriageway of the railway bridge had been referred to the District Engineer. A reply had been received, by e mail dated 22 September, 1998, indicating the Dee Valley Group were to be asked to check the security of their main to avoid freezing in bad weather.

(p) Cycle Working Party 8 June 1998. A copy of the minutes of this meeting had been obtained by the Clerk and were received and noted.

(q) Speed limit, School Lane. Councillor Gartland referred to difficulties encountered by an occupier in School Lane in emerging from his drive due to the speed of traffic approaching

from Guilden Sutton Lane and poor visibility due to the alignment of the road. It was agreed the matter would be referred to the police and enforcement sought. Councillor Hughes referred to the annual meeting of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils at which a proposal for a 40 mph limit on all rural roads had been defeated.

(r) Obstruction Orchard Croft/Oaklands. Councillor Armitage reported the receipt of a complaint as to obstruction of visibility for emerging traffic at this junction due to an overgrown berberis bed. This would be brought to the attention of the highway authority.

(s) Drain covers, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Vice Chairman referred to the disturbance to adjoining occupiers resulting from vehicles passing over noisy drain covers in Guilden Sutton Lane. This would be referred to the District Engineer.

(iii) Street Lighting. With the approach of the winter months, Members would report faults directly by telephoning the street lighting authority on 01244 603548.

7. Finance:

(i) income.

Bank of Scotland

interest (September) £ 44.96

(ii) payments.

S and H Services

bus shelter cleaning £ 10.00

Mrs R Mort

playing field rent

Oct - Dec 1998 £ 137.50

Clerk's salary

1.7.98 - 30.9.98 £ 575.00

Clerk's postages

1.7.98 - 30.9.98 £ 50.77

Clerk's photocopies

September - 296 @ 5p £ 14.80

Clerk's mileage

1.7.98 - 30.9.98

40 miles @ 20p £ 8.00

Proposed by Councillor Hughes

seconded by Councillor Gartland

and agreed.

(iii) balances

Bank of Scotland £ 9964.88

(iv) Audit.

(a) Internal. The Clerk reported the accounts for the periods 1.4.98 - 30.6.98 and 1.7.98 - 30.9.98 would now be submitted to Councillor Hughes on their return from the District Auditor.

(b) External. The Clerk reported he had attended the audit on 17 September, 1998. As the audit for 1997/98 had yet to be completed, there was no written report at this stage from the auditor.

However, so far as regularity was concerned, a number of detailed questions had been raised by the auditor, which he had answered although some would require additional work to resolve. With the agreement of the Clerk, the auditor had completed the 1996/97 audit, which had remained outstanding, and had prepared summary income and expenditure accounts

together with a balance sheet which were presented for signature by the Chairman. This was agreed. The Clerk would now use these as a basis for reworking the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet for 1997/98 for submission in draft form to the auditor for his advice, prior to signing by the Chairman..

The Clerk expressed his continuing concern at the expense which was falling upon the Council as a result of the need to introduce the new requirements and at the time involved. The procedures were becoming clearer as a result of the helpful advice given by the auditor and it was hoped the closure of the 1997/98 accounts would now move towards a conclusion. The Clerk was requested to provide an indication of the time involved.

Councillor Hughes referred to a view expressed at the annual meeting of the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils as to the balance to be achieved by auditors and to the need for Parishes to be able to go to the market for their audit. This would be raised with Christine Russell MP.

(v) Budget 1999/00 - half year out turn. Members considered a half year out turn prepared by the Clerk which would form the basis for the budget discussions in December and January. This included a forecast underspend of £970.

8. Access to school.

The Clerk reported the matter had been progressed with Chester City Council. It was necessary to set a weekend during which a group of volunteers and schoolchildren would be available to assist with the planting with the City Council ordering the trees. It was agreed a provisional date of 28 November, 1998 would be suggested. The headteacher would be advised and a note would appear in the newsletter. Mrs Cantle would be approached as to any trees she would be in a position to make available.

9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing. The Clerk reported the receipt of details from Henderson Horticultural Services as to bag holders. These were noted. Alternative prices would be obtained from the City Council.

(ii) dog fouling. (a) Heath Bank. Nothing further to report. (b)

Church Lane. The outcome of the intended inspection by the Dog Warden was awaited. (c) Footpath no 2. The need for bins on footpath no 2 was being raised. (d) Control of Dogs legislation. The Clerk referred to a City Council report which he had obtained as to the introduction of fixed penalty provisions. These were welcomed.

(iii) lengthsman. Nothing to report.

(iv) sewers. Nothing to report.

10. Trees and hedges.

(i) Tree Preservation Orders. The Clerk reported he had obtained a copy of the draft Tree Preservation Order which had been put forward for a number of trees in School Lane. This was noted.

(ii) Shrubs, Oaklands. Nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Further trees to be protected. Members would inform the Parish Tree Warden, Councillor Gartland, of any further trees they felt should be protected.

(iv) Damaged tree, the dell. It was thought that no action had yet been taken by the City Council with respect to the reported damage to a young tree.

(v) Draft regulations. A copy of this paper relating to tree preservation orders had been obtained by the Clerk and was referred to Councillor Gartland.

11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Annual meeting. Councillors Armitage and Hughes had attended the annual meeting held on Saturday

10 October, 1998. 98/99 072

Councillor Armitage had successfully proposed a motion relating to double rating and business rates. Councillor Hughes described the meeting as very good and welcomed the prospect of a reduction in affiliation fees.

(ii) Newsletter no 66. Copies of this newsletter were received

and circulated to each Member.

(iii) Outdoor basketball. Details of this scheme were received and noted.

(iv) Modernising Local Government. A copy of this paper was received and noted.

12. Chester City Council.

(i) Parish Partnership Reception 3 November 1998. Details of this reception were received from the Corporate Resource Unit by letter dated 18 September, 1998. It was agreed the Vice Chairman, Councillor Armitage and the Clerk would attend.

(ii) Zero Tolerance Campaign. Details of this campaign were received from the Zero Tolerance Co-ordinator by letter dated 18 September, 1998 together with a poster which had been exhibited by the Clerk.

(iii) Maintenance of churchyards and burial grounds. Details of this grant aid scheme had been referred to the Rev. Canon J A Malbon. A submission to the City Council was received from Mr D Everton, churchwarden, indicating the contribution to be made towards proposed expenditure by the PCC and seeking support from the Council. It was agreed a contribution of £250 would be made. The City Council and Mr Everton would be informed.

(iv) Council meeting 16 September 1998. The minutes for this meeting were received and referred to Councillor Gartland.

(v) Town Hall open day 10 October 1998. Details of this event were received from the Corporate Resource Unit by letter dated 1 October, 1998 together with a poster which had been exhibited by the Clerk.

(vi) Chester Agenda 21. A copy of this report was received and noted.

(vii) Rates relief in rural areas. The Clerk had obtained a copy of this report which referred inter alia to relief granted to a retail premises within the parish.

(viii) Past Uncovered Autumn 1998. Copies of this newsletter

were received and circulated to each Member.

(ix) Housing News Autumn 1998. A copy of this newsletter was received and noted.

13. Cheshire County Council.

(i) Cheshire Economic Development statement 1998/99. A copy of this newsletter was received and noted.

(ii) Envirolink 11 September, 1998 and 25 September, 1998. Received and noted.

(iii) Cheshire Environment no 55. Received, with accompanying letter dated 29 September, 1998, and noted.

14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition. Councillor Whitehouse had represent the Council at the presentation ceremony held at the Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port on 24 September, 1998 at 7.30pm. The parish had not gained an award and the detailed results were awaited. These would be published in the newsletter. Members referred to the improvement in the cleanliness of the parish as a result of the summer activities and agreed this objective should be pursued throughout the year.

(ii) Cheshire Cauldron. Received and noted.

(iii) Membership. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice, dated 9 September, 1998, that the Council's application for membership of the new Cheshire Community Council had been accepted. This was noted.

(iv) annual general meeting. The Clerk reported the final annual general meeting of the former Community Council had been held on 8 October, 1998. 98/99 073

(v) extraordinary general meeting. The Clerk reported an extraordinary general meeting of the new Community Council had been due to be held on 2 October, 1998 but had been inquorate.

(vi) reconvened extraordinary general meeting. The Clerk reported this had been due to be held on

8 October, 1998 prior to the annual general meeting referred to at 14 (iv).

15. CPRE.

Correspondence was received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.

16. Health.

Details were received from South Cheshire Health of vacancies on primary care groups. These were noted.

17. Policing matters.

(i) Nuisance.

(a) Approach from Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council. The Divisional Commander had been informed the Council would wish to support the proposed joint meeting between Christleton, Littleton, Mickle Trafford and Guilden Sutton to discuss the issue of nuisance youths. (see also minute 4 (ii) c above)

(b) Complaint from resident. The Clerk indicated that no further action was necessary in respect of the complaint from a resident as to the occupation of a telephone kiosk for lengthy periods by young people as it was understood the family had left the parish.

(ii) Parking on footways. The recurrence of this problem was being drawn to the attention of PC Pye.

(iii) drugs awareness forum. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 9 September, 1998, of a suggestion by the Divisional Commander that a rugs forum should be held to which local parish councillors would be invited. This would be welcomed.

(iv) Survey. Councillor Armitage had referred to the Clerk a survey as to levels of crime and disorder which had initially excluded the comments of Parishes. Members expressed their views to enable the survey to be completed.

18. Newsletter.

The Clerk indicated the next issue could be expected prior to the November meeting.

19. Millennium Celebrations.

(i) Parish. The suggestion by the Headteacher that local children should be invited to give their views as to possible changes and developments within the village was being pursued by the Clerk.

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 14 September, 1998 in the Church Hall had been received from Councillor Armitage and were noted. Councillor Armitage had indicated Members were welcome to attend the next meeting to be held on 22 October, 1998 in the Church Hall. This was noted.

Councillor Armitage also wished the Council to consider funding a Christmas tree, up to a maximum cost of £15, for a carols evening to be held on Monday 21 December, 1998 in the Village Hall. This was agreed.

(ii) City. Nothing further to report at this stage.

20. Memorial Garden.

A site meeting had been held on Saturday 12 September at 1000. The condition of the light and the give way sign had been reported to the District Engineer and estimates were being sought for the refurbishment of the finger post sign. The Clerk reported the receipt of a report from Henderson Horticultural Consultants who had been approached by Councillor Armitage. This proposed work estimated in the region of £350 in addition to the conifer hedging priced by Mr Cronin at cost approaching £100.

Although a suggestion had arisen that the work could be carried out for Remembrance Sunday, Members wished to see further estimates and possible alternatives to the conifer hedging proposed by Mr Cronin.

21. Bulb planting.

Members discussed the planting programme for the forthcoming

Spring. It was agreed that snowdrops should be obtained up to a maximum cost of £60 for planting on footpath no 7 and additional daffodils to a maximum cost of £40 for planting elsewhere.

22. Land adjoining 2 Summerfield Road.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

23. Periodic Electoral Review.

The suggestion by Councillor Armitage that the Council should meet with Littleton and Christleton to discuss the existing boundaries, particularly where they adjoined the urban area, had been progressed by the Clerk who had written to the Clerks of Littleton and Christleton parish councils for their views. Replies were awaited.

The Clerk had received notification, by letter dated 2 October, 1998 from the Corporate Resource Unit, that there would be no change to the Parish election due to have been held in Guilden Sutton in 2003. This was welcomed.

24. Web site.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

25. Parishes and IT.

Details of funding available to parish councils particularly for the provision of IT equipment had been received from the County Council but did not appear to apply to parish councils. This would be pursued.

26. Inter Village Quiz.

Details of this annual event had been referred to Mr Christmas. It was not known if it had been possible to enter a team.

27. Skip, Village Hall car park.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a strong letter of complaint from an adjoining occupier as to the dumping of paper when the igloo was full. He had forwarded this to the Chairman of the

Community Association. Members deprecated such practice and were informed by Councillor Arditti that the sponsoring organisation had decided to cease the scheme. A note would appear in a future edition of the newsletter encouraging residents to use their green bags.

28. Replacement of Christleton High School swimming pool.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter dated 15 September, 1998 from the Chairman of the Christleton Sports Centre JMC seeking support for a lottery bid to enable the replacement of the swimming pool. It was agreed funding of £100 should be approved in view of the use of the pool by Guilden Sutton residents.

29. Possible withdrawal of lottery terminal.

The Council discussed the possible loss of the National Lottery terminal in the post office as a result of a requirement to achieve a significant increase in the weekly sales of tickets to meet target set by Post Office Counters. It was noted the post office had made strenuous efforts to improve sales and that Councillor Armitage had accepted an invitation to address the County Council's Area Committee held on 5 October, 1998 which had been extremely supportive. It was agreed that letters should be sent to Post Office Counters and to County Councillor N J Fitton and that publicity should appear in the newsletter based on the Council's concerns as to the viability of village shops rather than commercial support for one particular business.

30. Chester CVS Newsletter issue no 10.

Received and noted.

31. Remembrance Sunday.

It was noted the annual service of remembrance would take place on 8 November, 1998.

32. Core samples, Guilden Sutton Lane.

The Vice Chairman referred to concerns arising from core samples being taken in fields opposite Heath Bank. Councillor Mrs Astbury believed these may have been in the course of

agriculture.

33. Bonfires.

Councillor Hughes suggested advice might be sought on any regulations governing permitted hours for bonfires. The environmental health service would be approached.

34. Complaints.

Councillor Hughes referred to the benefit of the Council having a complaints procedure in place and handed a NALC circular dated 1995. Inquiries would be made as to its currency.

MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Gartland, seconded by Councillor Armitage and agreed that the press and public should be excluded for the discussion of the following items on the grounds of 35, 36, 37 and 39 enforcement action and 38 details of the financial affairs of a third party.

35. Occupancy of property, School Lane.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

36. Enforcement action - industrial premises.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

37. Enforcement action - Oaklands.

The Clerk reported there had been no further communication from the planning authority as to development on the Oaklands estate for which the Council had not received a planning application. The matter was being pursued.

38. Fencing adjoining Village Hall Car Park.

The Clerk indicated he was to visit the planning authority to determine if the original planning permission was of any help in delineating curtilages in that area of the village.

39. Obstructions to the highway.

The Clerk reported the highway authority had been asked to inspect an obstruction to the highway on Oaklands resulting from the storage in the carriageway and on the opposite footway of substantial unlit and unfenced quantities of building materials and an obstruction to the footway on Oaklands resulting from the storage of a boat trailer.