

## GUILDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 9 November, 1998.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs B Antrobus.

Apologies: Councillor Astbury, City Councillor B J Bailey, City Councillor B J Bailey.

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

In attendance: County Councillor N J Fitton, Miss S Cunliffe, principal planning officer, Chester City Council (for application 98/00445/COU).

### 1. Minutes.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 October, 1998 were proposed by Councillor Armitage, seconded by Councillor Fisher and agreed subject to the correction of the word "rugs" in item 17 to read "drugs".

### 2. Planning.

#### (i) New applications.

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. Councillors Fisher and Hughes. It was noted this application was to be determined on by the Planning sub committee on Wednesday 11 November. City Councillor J R Boughton had been fully briefed. The proposal fell within the green belt and was partly retrospective. The initial application had been invalidated due to lack of detail on the plans. A waste recovery compound had since been constructed which obstructed the obvious route for the new access road. It was noted the planning officer's report recommended permission and there were concerns the fait accompli had been accepted. The field forward of the poplar screen forming the application site could be regarded as true green belt and the recent erection of perimeter security fencing suggested the field was being

prepared for industrial activity.

Councillor Hughes did not feel the application had been justified. Trailers, drums and containers were scattered across the existing car park which arguably should not be there. Otherwise, the proposal could be accommodated within the existing industrial curtilage. No permission had been sought for the waste recovery area.

The Vice Chairman believed construction of the waste recovery area had followed the Parish Council's comments as to the preferred location for the access road. He observed the company had indicated their intention to carry out work in the field in 1996.

Councillor Gartland suggested stored drums and trailers were being used as a screen to prevent adjoining occupiers from observing operations.

Councillor Armitage said that given the green belt status of the field, activities by the company should be reduced if they could not be undertaken within the existing industrial curtilage. They should not expand into the green belt. If there had been any indication to the planning authority that the waste recovery area would be the subject of a planning application, the two should be considered together. Councillor Armitage believed there was a presupposition the waste recovery area would be approved.

The Principal Planning Officer said the Planning sub committee did voice concerns as to retrospective applications although there was a duty to determine each proposal on its own merits. Although notes were appended to decision notices, such applications could not be prevented. Enforcement action could be taken when information was provided by the public or by parish councils. If work required planning permission, the occupier could be advised to stop and submit an application. An enforcement notice would be issued where an application was not received within 28 days. She confirmed an application had been requested for the waste recovery unit. The suggestion that both applications should be considered together was a valid and serious point, particularly if the positioning of the waste recovery unit affected where the access road might go, although health and safety requirements should be kept in mind.

Referring to green belt considerations, the Principal Planning

Officer pointed out that development was allowed in the green belt and that planning had to reach a balance. The site provided employment for a considerable number of people and development which did not affect the openness of the green belt was permitted. The positioning of trailers did not require planning permission and the planning authority had very little control over housekeeping. The perimeter fencing was required for security reasons and did not require planning permission.

The Chairman indicated the Council did not accept the employment argument. The Vice Chairman believed that site security could have been achieved with less fencing. The field could have remained as a green belt field and he thought the intentions of the owner were obvious.

Councillor Armitage expressed disappointment at what the Principal Planning Officer had to say. He could not recall an application which had caused so much concern to Members. He would hope that in a borderline case, the track record of the applicant would be considered and thought the application should be deferred to enable it to be considered with that for the waste recovery unit.

The Principal Planning Officer was thanked by the Chairman for her attendance.

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. Further inquiries had been made by the Vice Chairman. Following a report, it was agreed no objection should be raised.

Councillor Gartland returned to the room.

98/01169/FUL, conversion of garage to playroom and car port to garage at 7 Orchard Croft for Mr R Baird. Following a report by Councillor Whitehouse, it was agreed no objection should be raised subject to there being cavity walls between the house and garage with the new garage being not less than 15 feet in length.

(ii) Decision notices.

98/00989/OUT, demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new dwelling at Woodcote, Wicker Lane for Mr J Cox. The Chairman.

98/01128/FUL, conservatory at Oakdene, 3 School Lane for Mr and Mrs Birtles. Councillor Gartland.

(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. Nothing further to report.

97/01302/FUL, extension at 1 Vicarage Close for Mr L Stephani. The Clerk was pursuing his inquiries 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.

98/00512/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. It was understood an appeal might be raised by the applicant.

98/00585/FUL, replacement of flat roofs with pitched and construction of store at 30 Oaklands for Mr E Alsop. Nothing further to report.

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 advised it might be useful to approach the Highways

Agency in Manchester to elicit a response as to their unpreparedness to enter into agreement for the mast to be sited on highway land.

98/00729/FUL, creation of foot/cycleway Mickle Trafford - Dee Marsh junction for Sustrans. Councillor Armitage. It was understood this application had now been approved.

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

98/00831/FUL, conversion of double garage into living accommodation at 10 Middlecroft for Mr and Mrs B Leroux. The concerns expressed by the Vice Chairman were to be raised, in the first instance, at the Area Meeting.

98/00874/OUT, proposed bungalow and garage at Ashbourne House, Hare Lane for Mr N Hassall. The decision notice was awaited.

98/00994/FUL, bay window to rear at Loughrigg, 12 Oaklands for Mr R M Armitage. Nothing to report.

98/01119/FUL, construction of pitched roofs and provision of chimney stack at Roewen, Belle Vue Lane for J M R Construction. The Vice Chairman. No objection had been raised. The decision notice was awaited.

(iv) General:

(a) Parish Planning Forum: planning guidelines. It was reported the planning guidelines had been issued at the Parish Partnership Reception held on 3 November , 1998. The copy allocated to the Council was held by the Vice Chairman and would be passed to Councillor Hughes.

(b) Standard planning conditions. Councillor Hughes was thanked for kindly reproducing sufficient copies for each Member.

(c) Telecommunications development control. The report obtained by the Clerk had been referred to Councillor Armitage.

(d) Chester City Council, review of fees and charges. City Councillor Boughton was being thanked for his successful motion

to delete a proposal that charges should be made to parish councils wishing to inspect documents relating to previous planning applications.

(e) Planning applications. The Clerk confirmed a note as to the need for planning applications would appear in a future issue of the newsletter.

(f) neighbour notifications. The Clerk reported the receipt, by e mail dated 6 November, 1998, of confirmation of the City Council's view that the advising of the reply by dates of neighbour notifications would create an additional workload which present resources were unable to meet. Should the Council need extra time to consider any application, existing arrangements to accommodate this remained in place. This was noted.

(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 draft modifications. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

(d) Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan.

The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Chester District Landscape Assessment. Councillor Gartland indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

3. Parish Car Park.

(i) Trees and Shrubs. Councillor Gartland, as Parish Tree

Warden, would progress the availability of shrubs for planting within the car park.

(ii) Maintenance. The Vice Chairman and Councillor Hughes indicated they would be available to attend a site meeting at 10.00am on Saturday 28 November, 1998. This would be confirmed by the Clerk.

#### 4. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field.

(a) 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 9 October, 1998. Councillor Hughes reported he understood a report was also to be prepared by the parents of children using the play area. This was noted.

(b) Safety surfacing. The Clerk confirmed the contractor had been asked to rake and level the safety surfacing and to trim the boundary hedging.

(c) Nuisance. Arrangements for the proposed meeting with Christleton, Littleton and Mickle Trafford to discuss nuisance youths had been raised with the Divisional Commander by the Clerk. A reply was awaited.

(d) Possible transfer. The Clerk reported the receipt by letter dated 5 November, 1998 of a response from the Head of Sport and Recreation as to the possible transfer of responsibility for the play area. This set out the background to the Council's policy and suggested the matter might best be raised at any future visit to the Parish by an executive director to discuss the corporate plan. This was noted.

(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 had been 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 on recent work undertaken by the Parish Paths Group. The possibility of a noticeboard being provided, as originally envisaged under the Parish Paths Partnership scheme, remained under consideration.

(b) Footpath no 2. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the intended surface dressing. Reference to persistent fouling was to be included in a future newsletter.

(c) Pond Life Project. Councillor Gartland, Parish Pond Warden, referred to the future of the project for which letters of support were being sought. A draft was referred to the Clerk who would progress the reply.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. Further to minute 5 (v) of the previous meeting, the Clerk reported he had pursued the helpful advice received from City Councillor J R Boughton and would be contacting the City Council contractor to discuss the position.

The City Council had been informed of the Council's satisfaction as to the standard of grounds maintenance carried out in the parish on behalf of the City Council by Cliff Evans.

5. Public Transport.

(i) Services: general.

(a) Sunday Service to Guilden Sutton. The Clerk had arranged further publicity in the newsletter.

(b) Punctuality. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(c) Service reductions. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 27 October, 1998, of advice from the County Transport Co-ordination Service of proposed service reductions resulting from rising charges by bus operators. All involved passenger subsidies

in excess of £5 per journey and none at this stage affected Guilden Sutton. This was noted.

Councillor Armitage reported that companies were seeking subsidies for existing services which he believed would make the Sunday service more vulnerable. It was difficult to see it could be maintained as at present although a 'dial a ride' option might be a possibility.

The Clerk further reported the receipt, by letter dated 5 November 1998, of advice from the County Council of an anticipated overspend on bus services in excess of £500,000, leading to a change in local bus support policy. This was noted.

(ii) Bus Shelters. The Clerk reported an initial clean had been carried out by the contractor.

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

(iv) District Wide Accessible Transport. No report due to the unavoidable absence of Councillor Mrs Astbury.

(v) Rural Transport Partnership. No report due to the unavoidable absence of Councillor Mrs Astbury.

## 6. Highways.

(i) Major schemes. The Clerk indicated there was nothing to report.

(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. The planting of hedging 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) Moorcroft Crescent. There was nothing further to report at

this stage as to the reconstruction of the foot and carriageways.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

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

(g) Local Joint Highways Committee for Chester. (i) local speed limits. Representations had been made to the highway authority. A reply dated 5 November, 1998, was received from the Acting County Engineer indicating the publication of an accompanying document to the Transport White Paper was awaited on which it was expected Parishes would be consulted by the County Council. This was noted. (ii) meeting 12 November, 1998. The Clerk reported the receipt of agenda papers for this meeting.

(h) Road surface, Guilden Sutton Lane. The egress of water across the carriageway of the railway bridge, referred to the District Engineer, would be kept under review.

(i) Speed limit, School Lane. 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 had been referred to the police and enforcement sought.

(j) Obstruction Orchard Croft/Oaklands. The complaint as to obstruction of visibility for emerging traffic at this junction due to an overgrown berberis bed had been brought to the attention of the highway authority. The Clerk reported a small section of growth had been removed to expose the street name plate. He had revisited the matter with the District Engineer which had resulted in a complete pruning of the bed.

(k) Drain covers, Guilden Sutton Lane. The disturbance to adjoining occupiers resulting from vehicles passing over noisy drain covers in Guilden Sutton Lane had been referred to the District Engineer. A response had been received, by e mail dated

5 November, 1998, indicating there had been a design change to gully grids which were also of a lighter casting, leading to the problem. This was noted.

(l) PIA, junction A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk reported he had been advised by City Councillor B J Bailey, by letter dated 21 October, 1998, of a personal injury accident which had taken place on that date. This was noted.

(m) mud, Guilden Sutton Lane/School Lane. Councillor Gartland reported a complaint by Mrs Cantle as to the deposit of mud and damage to verges following agricultural contracting operations in adjoining fields. It was noted the contractor had employed a sweeper but this was not always 100 per cent successful.

(n) closure, Station Lane, Mickle Trafford. The Clerk reported the receipt, by e mail dated 6 November, 1998 of a proposal for a complete road closure affecting a length of Station Lane, Mickle Trafford for a period of three weeks from 30 November, 1998. This was noted. The position regarding bus services would be raised with 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 (October) £ 35.58

(ii) payments.

Cheshire Assn of Town and Parish

Councils: annual meeting lunches £ 10.00

Devaprint

newsletters 54,55 £ 40.00

Clerk's photocopies

(October) 418@ 5p £ 20.90

Clerk's mileage

20 @ 20p £ 4.00

Proposed by Councillor Armitage

seconded by Councillor Gartland

and agreed.

(iii) balances

Bank of Scotland £ 8571.29

(iv) Audit.

(a) Internal. Councillor Hughes reported he had examined the accounts for the periods 1.4.98 - 30.6.98 and 1.7.98 - 30.9.98 which were satisfactory.

(b) External. The Clerk reported he had reworked the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet for 1997/98 which had been submitted in draft form to the auditor for his advice, prior to signing by the Chairman..

The view expressed by Councillor Hughes 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 was being raised with Christine Russell MP.

(v) Budget 1999/00. Budget proposals would be prepared by the Clerk for consideration at the December and January meetings.

8. Access to school.

The Clerk reported the City Council would be able to assist to the extent of providing an appropriate number of trees of a suitable species with stakes and with the planting thereof to the point

where the Council, members of the public and schoolchildren would be able to assist in the final backfilling. It might be possible for this to take place during National Tree Week.. The Cheshire Landscape Trust, with which he had discussed the position, had available cherry species. Councillor Gartland, as Parish Tree Warden, indicated he was to attend a Tree Wardens meeting on Tuesday 10 November, 1998 and would seek advice as to suitable trees which would be available. Councillor Hughes requested that arrangements be made for the cutting of the boundary hedge to the Village Hall prior to any planting. This was noted.

#### 9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing. The Clerk reported he had obtained alternative prices for bag holders from the City Council which were considerably more expensive than those intimated by Henderson Horticultural Services. It was agreed that seven of the latter should be purchased.

The condition of the Bird in Hand steps would be drawn to the City Council's attention.

(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 had been raised. A response was awaited. Councillor Hughes referred to the disgusting state of this path. An approach would be made to City Councillor B J Bailey seeking advice as to the action taken elsewhere in similar circumstances.

(iii) lengthsman. The Clerk referred to a letter he had circulated on the basis of the comment by the Vice Chairman that the rota of safety inspections and litter clearance, which now encompassed the play area, parish car park and parish playing field, was somewhat burdensome. The Clerk drew the distinction between the voluntary community leadership demonstrated by Members in supporting the 'Clean Sweep' initiative and routine amenity cleansing of council owned areas which would quite properly fall to a contractor.

It was agreed the grounds maintenance contractor should be asked to estimate for the scavenging of these areas on a two weekly rota, save for the play area which would appear on each rota. Visual safety inspections by Members would continue and

any hazardous accumulations would be drawn to the contractor's attention.

(iv) sewers. Nothing to report.

10. Trees and hedges.

(i) Tree Preservation Orders. Councillor Gartland indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(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. These were being considered by Councillor Gartland.

11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Double rating. Councillor Armitage referred to the successful motion he had proposed relating to relating to double rating and business rates. It was noted that other parishes did not pay business rates on their car parks and an approach would be made to the City Council and to the Ward Members seeking a repayment of the 1998/99 rates and 100 per cent relief in future years.

(ii) Complaints procedure. It was agreed the model complaints procedure drawn up by NALC should be adopted. Copies would be circulated by the Clerk.

(iii) Primary School governors. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 9 October, 1998, of advice from the Minister of State for Education confirming an automatic place for a minor authority nominee on all primary school governing bodies. This was welcomed.

(iv) Local Council Review, November 1998. Received and

circulated.

## 12. Chester City Council.

(i) Parish Partnership Reception 3 November 1998. The Vice Chairman, Councillor Armitage and the Clerk had attended this extremely useful event.

(ii) Zero Tolerance Campaign. The Clerk reported the receipt of a further poster which he had exhibited.

(iii) Maintenance of churchyards and burial grounds. The City Council and Mr Everton, churchwarden, had been informed of the Council's decision to allocate £250 towards proposed expenditure on grounds maintenance equipment. The Clerk had also discussed the position with the Service Manager dealing with the grant applications.

(iv) Council meeting 4 November 1998. The minutes for this meeting were received and referred to Councillor Gartland.

(v) Cultural provision. The Vice Chairman referred to the City Council's interest in cultural provision. Further information would be obtained. The Clerk reported the receipt of an inquiry form seeking the Council's views.

(vi) Tourism in Chester. The Clerk reported the receipt, with an accompanying letter dated 3 November, 1998, of details of a draft tourism strategy. This was noted.

## 13. Cheshire County Council.

Nothing to report.

## 14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition. The Clerk reported he had obtained a copy of the overall results and a narrative relating to Guilden Sutton but not the detailed marking. The parish had achieved seventh place of 13 in the class. The general impression of the village was pleasing and the parish rated relatively highly but could easily achieve a better score. Aspects criticised were the churchyard, noticeboards, play area, weeds and litter. The detailed marks would be sought.

15. CPRE.

Correspondence was received and referred to Councillor Whitehouse.

16. Health.

Nothing to report.

17. Policing matters.

(i) Nuisance.

(a) Approach from Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council. The Divisional Commander had been approached as to progress with the proposed joint meeting between Christleton, Littleton, Mickle Trafford and Guilden Sutton to discuss the issue of nuisance youths.

(b) Moorcroft Crescent. The Clerk reported the receipt, by telephone call, of complaints from a resident as to the playing of football by younger children and the parking of cars, together with a request for a visit by PC Pye. These had been referred to the Divisional Commander as to nuisance and to the District Engineer as to the parking of cars for which regulatory measures had been suggested by the complainant.

(ii) drugs awareness forum. The Divisional Commander had been informed of the Council's support for the proposed drugs forum to which local parish councillors would be invited.

(iii) Survey. The Clerk reported the survey completed by Members had been forwarded to the Divisional Commander.

18. Newsletter.

The Clerk indicated there was nothing to report.

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.

Councillor Armitage reported the meeting held on 22 October, 1998 in the Church Hall had been thinly attended. A further meeting would be held on 28 January, 1999 which would be publicised in the newsletter.

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

#### 20. Memorial Garden.

Members revisited the report from Henderson Horticultural Consultants, estimated in the region of £350 in addition to the conifer hedging priced by Mr Cronin at cost approaching £100. This was thought to be far more than could be afforded. Councillor Gartland would make inquiries from the Cheshire Landscape Trust as to the availability of beech hedging as an alternative to the conifers and other suitable shrubs as recommended by Mr Henderson.

#### 21. Bulb planting.

The Chairman reported she had obtained quantities of snowdrops for planting on footpath no 7 and additional daffodils for planting elsewhere within the budget approved at the previous meeting. This was noted.

#### 22. Land adjoining 2 Summerfield Road.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

#### 23. Periodic Electoral Review.

(a) proposed meeting. A response had been received from Littleton parish council as to the suggestion by Councillor Armitage that Parishes should meet to discuss the existing boundaries, particularly where they adjoined the urban area. This indicated a meeting under neutral chairmanship would be preferred.

The Clerk reported he had received from City Councillor B J Bailey, by letter dated 22 October, 1998, advice that the parish boundary review was now formally before the City Council and enclosing a large scale map of the present Guilden Sutton parish boundary. This revealed areas on the opposite side of the Gowy and at the access to footpath no 7 which might benefit from

review, together with confirmation of the boundary on the A 41. This was noted.

(b) parish elections. The Corporate Resource Unit, Chester City Council had been thanked for their notification that there would be no change to the Parish election due to have been held in Guilden Sutton in 2003 as a result of the electoral review.

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 was being pursued.

26. Skip, Village Hall car park.

It was noted the igloo had now been withdrawn. A suitable response had been made to the strong letter of complaint from an adjoining occupier as to the dumping of paper when the igloo was full. A note would appear in a future edition of the newsletter encouraging residents to use their green bags.

27. Replacement of Christleton High School swimming pool.

The Chairman of the Christleton Sports Centre JMC had been informed of the agreed funding of £100 which would be made available in support of the lottery bid to enable the replacement of the swimming pool in view of the use of the pool by Guilden Sutton residents.

28. Possible withdrawal of lottery terminal.

Publicity was appearing in the newsletter based on the Council's concerns as to the viability of village shops rather than commercial support for one particular business. It was understood Post Office Counters

were now taking a more conciliatory approach.

## 29. Remembrance Sunday.

The annual service of remembrance had taken place on 8 November, 1998.

## 30. Bonfires.

Councillor Hughes referred the Clerk to a helpful leaflet produced by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection. This would form the basis for publicity in the newsletter. The advice of the environmental health service was also being sought.

## 31. Verges, The Vetches.

Councillor Arditti reported that an area of verge had been cleared of overgrown vegetation and required improvement. It was thought self help by re-seeding might be the most practical way forward.

## 32. Primary School governors.

Councillor Fisher reported on the implications of the Government decision to limit class sizes to 30 which might result in in zone children being refused admittance. A major development plan was being prepared for the gardens at the school. Councillor Armitage reported that recent league tables showed the school to be the 164th best primary school in the country. This was noted.

## 33. Verge, Station Lane.

Councillor Gartland referred to the condition of the verge by the bus stop. This would be inspected.

## 34. Involvement of youth.

Councillor Hughes referred to possible action to encourage youths or youth organisations to take an interest in the work of the Council. It was agreed approaches should be made to the Vicar and the Scout and Guide leaders.

**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.

Councillor Gartland reported he understood this property was now vacant.

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.

38. Fencing adjoining Village Hall Car Park.

The Clerk indicated he had not yet been able 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 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 had been resolved.