

GUILDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 11 January 1999.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs B Antrobus.

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

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

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

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 14 December, 1998 were proposed by Councillor Gartland, seconded by Councillor Armitage and agreed subject to City Councillor J R Boughton being shown in attendance.

2. Planning.

(i) New applications.

98/01414/FUL, conservatory to replace wooden lean to at 81 Oaklands for Mr W Clark. Councillor Arditti and the Clerk reported. The planning officer, who was aware of the detail of the application, had kindly agreed a further period to enable the matter to be further considered at this meeting although it was understood that as no objections had been received, the proposal would be approved. It was agreed that observations would be made advising that neighbouring occupiers had not been consulted by the planning authority at the time of the Council's inquiries and that not all adjoining properties were shown on the plans which further did not show the proposal positioned on the house. The planning authority would be asked to satisfy themselves as to the overall size of the proposal relative to the garden and the need for obscured glazing to the high level windows to prevent overlooking.

(ii) Decision notices.

The Clerk reported that none had been received since the last meeting.

(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, (now The Steadings), Wicker Lane for Kilmorey Estates. The Development Control Manager had been thanked for his notification of the proposed relocation of the garage block serving Unit 7. With respect to the proposed improvement to Wicker Lane at the entrance to the development, the City Council had been informed that Members wished an Oak at this location to be protected and also wished the hedge line at the original entrance to Highfield to be reinstated. The need for the reinstatement of any public footpaths affected by the overall development would be monitored.

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.

97/01302/FUL, extension at 1 Vicarage Close for Mr L Stephani. The Clerk had not yet been able to pursue 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.

98/00445/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 Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

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 would be forthcoming.

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 was thanking the Highways Agency in Manchester for their helpful response. It was noted an application had now been submitted by Cellnet for a mast in the vicinity of the Boughton Heath park and ride site.

98/00729/FUL, creation of foot/cycleway Mickle Trafford - Dee Marsh junction for Sustrans. Councillor Armitage indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

98/00874/OUT, proposed bungalow and garage at Ashbourne House, Hare Lane for Mr N Hassall. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

98/00989/OUT, demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new dwelling at Woodcote, Wicker Lane for Mr J Cox. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

98/01119/FUL, construction of pitched roofs and provision of chimney stack at Roewen, Belle Vue Lane for J M R Construction. It was noted the renovated property had been offered for sale.

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 made no comment.

98/01169/FUL, conversion of garage to playroom and car port to garage at 7 Orchard Croft for Mr R Baird. The Clerk indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

98/01297/FUL, extension to front elevation at 3 The Hall, Station Lane for Mr and Mrs D McIver. The planning authority had been informed of the Council's objection to the application on the grounds the proposal involved an important, old and original building in the historic village centre. The proposed portico was out of keeping and the overall impact of the extension, a likely total of 2.00 metres forward, was very significant in the context of the relatively small, ordered space which it faced. The proposal seriously broke the building line with similar departures

not being obvious elsewhere in the development.

The planning authority had been advised the Council would be minded to withdraw their objection if the portico were to be omitted from the proposal and the extension limited to a maximum of 1.00 metres forward to the external face. Should the planning authority be persuaded to grant approval, the Council would wish to see a requirement for the guttering to match the existing on either side and for the first floor window to match that at no 2 in height and design. There should also be a flat roof line to the forward extension to match the existing.

The applicant and the Secretary of The Hall and Stables Management Committee had been informed. The decision notice was awaited.

98/01353/FUL, dormer bungalow with detached garage for residential - disabled use at Wood Farm for Mr P Gresty. The planning authority had been advised of the Council's objection to the proposal as in their view the site did not meet the emerging local plan criteria for infill dwellings. The distance between the eastern face of the existing dwelling and the eastern boundary of the existing curtilage was three times the plot widths of the two immediately adjoining properties to the east. Local plan policy, which the Council strongly endorsed, would only allow development on plots suitable for one or two dwellings.

The site was located within a sensitive area of green belt in close proximity to important and valuable areas of green space protected by the emerging local plan. The proposal would be inappropriate and would impact adversely on the openness of the principal gateway to the village. This was not continuously developed on the northerly side, contributing to the overall character of the village setting.

There would be no objection to a modest extension to the existing property appropriate to meet the applicant's special needs.

Should the planning authority be minded to grant permission, the Council would wish to see the proposal to be limited to a single storey rather than a dormer bungalow in keeping with the existing.

The two dwellings should be restricted to single occupancy,

conditioned to prevent the separate disposal of the in fill development.

The applicant had been informed that Members had considered the application most anxiously but had not felt able to depart from their established policy. The decision notice was awaited.

City Councillor J R Boughton intimated a site meeting was to be held with the principal planning officer prior to the determination of the application by the Planning sub committee in February.

98/01389/FUL, amendment to approved design, Unit 5, The Steadings for Kilmorey Estates (Chester) Ltd. No objection had been raised. (see also 95/01046/COU above). The decision notice was awaited.

(iv) General:

(a) Parish Planning Forum: planning guidelines. There was no further comment at this stage.

(b) Telecommunications development control. The report obtained by the Clerk was being considered by Councillor Armitage.

(c) Chester City Council, Article 4 Directions. This City Council report on the present position with regard to Article 4 Directions, as had been imposed on the Oaklands Estate, had been considered by the Vice Chairman who had informed the Clerk he had found the paper to be of interest.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Chester District Local Plan.

(i) DENV 19 protection, the orchard, School Lane. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 6 January, 1999 of advice from City Councillor B J Bailey that the protection offered to this site as a Village Green Space had been removed by the Development Committee on 24 November, 1998. This decision had been confirmed by the Local Plan Panel on 10 December, 1998 on the grounds the site did not meet the criteria. City Councillor Bailey had indicated the decision had been taken on party lines and that he would pursue the matter at the public

inquiry scheduled for August, 1999, hopefully in concert with the Parish Council.

Members expressed their disappointment at this decision which was seen as a result of lobbying and their concern at the politicisation of the planning process. City Councillor Bailey would be thanked for notifying the Council and assured of their full support.

(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 the report to the County Council's Environment Committee on 4 November, 1998 together with the minutes of the Waste Management Panel of 9 September and 8 October, 1998 had been considered by Councillor Armitage and noted.

3. Parish Car Park.

(i) Trees and Shrubs. Councillor Gartland, Parish Tree Warden, indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Maintenance. The Clerk confirmed that a part payment of £700 had been made with the balance to follow on completion of the maintenance to the rose bed which had yet to be notified.

4. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field.

(a) Notice. With respect to the use of the field by residents exercising their dogs, the Clerk was hoping to affix the notice prohibiting the use of the field by dogs or for the playing of golf in the near future.

(ii) Play Area.

(a) Safety inspections. The anticipated report which it was understood was being prepared by the parents of children using the play area was awaited. The Clerk reported the receipt of an inspection report dated

16 December, 1998 referring to fireworks damage to the slide. The City Council would be asked to confirm whether or not this damage had been rectified. The Grafittibusters would also be requested to deal with a large amount of spray painting which had occurred.

The Clerk reported the receipt of details of an annual inspection and risk assessment service offered by RoSPA at a lesser cost than the present inspection service. The insurers would be asked to confirm this would be acceptable.

An updated inspection rota would be circulated by the Clerk as soon as possible.

(b) Safety surfacing. The Clerk suggested he might obtain details from the North of England Zoological Society as to the supplier of the material used within their play area for consideration for future use. This was agreed.

(c) Nuisance. A reply was awaited from the Divisional Commander as to the arrangements for the proposed meeting with Christleton, Littleton and Mickle Trafford to discuss nuisance youths.

(d) Possible transfer. A response was awaited from the City Council as to the possibility of the transfer of responsibility for the play area being raised at any future visit to the Parish by an executive director to discuss the corporate plan.

(e) Public seat. The provision of a further public seat in the play area would be revisited at a future meeting.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Paths Partnership. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(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. (see also minute 9 (ii) below).

(c) Mid Cheshire Footpath Society. The Christmas 1998 Newsletter was being referred to the Parish Paths Warden.

(iv) Pond Life Project. The letter of support for the project was being progressed by the Clerk on the basis of the draft provided by Councillor Gartland, Parish Pond Warden. Councillor Gartland intimated he was to attend an induction meeting for newly appointed wardens.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 17 December, 1998, of an approach by the City Council contractor and would contact them to discuss the position as part of the tendering process for 1999 which would now be progressed. (see also 3 (ii) above).

5. Public Transport.

(i) Services: general.

(a) Sunday Service to Guilden Sutton. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the future of this service.

(b) Punctuality. In the absence of the Local Bus User Contact, Members were not aware of any current complaints.

(c) Service reductions. The Clerk reported he had been made aware by the Local Bus User Contact of concerns as to the withdrawal of the commercial service from Mickle Trafford to Chester via Hoole Road which enabled passengers to reach the doctors, dentist, optician and pharmacy in that area. Enquiries would be made of the operator.

City Councillor J R Boughton intimated that no notice had yet been given that the service would be withdrawn although he had contacted the operator and encouraged passengers to write suitable letters.

(ii) Bus Shelters. The Clerk reported the quarterly cleaning of the glazing had been carried out.

(iii) District Wide Accessible Transport. There was nothing further to report at this stage in the absence of Councillor Mrs Astbury.

(iv) Rural Transport Partnership. There was nothing further to report at this stage in the absence of Councillor Mrs Astbury.

(v) Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee. The Clerk reminded Members that the next meeting of the committee would be held on Monday 15 February, 1999 at 6.30pm in County Hall should they wish to attend.

(vi) Rural Bus Service Grant. Information was received from the County Transport Coordinator, by letter dated 10 December, 1998, of the introduction of a new service from Farndon to Whitchurch funded by the Rural Bus Service Grant. This was the first such service to be introduced in Chester District. The matter was noted.

6. Highways.

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

(ii) Local matters.

(a) A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. Members were noting 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 Clerk reported the receipt of a response from the District Engineer, by e mail dated 15 December, 1998, as to the planting of hedging to the frontage of two properties in Wicker Lane which it was believed would encroach onto the highway verge. An inspection and enquiries by the highway authority had revealed the hedge stood on private land although any possible encroachment would be monitored in future years. The reply was noted, the Vice Chairman expressing a degree of reserve.

(c) Moorcroft Crescent. It was noted from the agenda of the Local Joint Highways Committee for Chester meeting to be held on Thursday 14 January 1999 that the intended reconstruction of the foot and carriageways would commence in the near future.

(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. The Clerk reported that maintenance had recently been carried out 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. It was noted the next meeting of the committee would be held on Thursday 14 January 1999 at 6.00pm in the Town Hall.

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

(i) Speed limit, School Lane. It was not known if the intended enforcement by the Traffic Unit as to the speed of traffic approaching from Guilden Sutton Lane had taken place.

(j) Drain covers, Guilden Sutton Lane. The response of the District Engineer was being referred to the occupier concerned.

(k) highways depot. The District Engineer had been thanked for his informal advice as to a future application for the construction of an LPG storage compound at the depot.

(l) Chevron signs, The Byatts. The suggestion that chevron signs might be provided at The Byatts was being progressed with the District Engineer.

(m) Road Traffic Reduction Act. Councillor Armitage had considered a County Council report on this new legislation and reported. A range of proposals had been put forward to restrain the growth in traffic including a reduction in journeys by car and an increase in those by public transport and cycle although there was no indication as to how this would be achieved.

(n) Verge, Station Lane. The condition of the verge by the bus stop, raised by Councillor Gartland, had been inspected by the Clerk who had referred the matter to the District Engineer.

(iii) Street lighting. Nothing further to report at this stage.

7. Finance:

(i) income.

Bank of Scotland

interest (December) £ 27.49

Guilden Sutton Community Assn

final repayment £1250.00

Chester City Council

grant re graveyard £ 750.00

(ii) payments.

Mrs R Mort

playing field rent

1.1.99 - 31.3.99 £ 137.50

Gresty

grounds maintenance 1998 £ 81.37 (total £781.37, VAT £119.00)

*

(final payment)

Chester Standard

newsletter distribution £ 15.28 (VAT £2.38)

A Arditti Esq

purchase of Christmas Tree £ 16.60

S and H Services

bus shelter cleaning £ 10.00

St John's Church

graveyard grant £1000.00

Clerk's salary

1.10.98 - 31.12.98 £ 575.00

Clerk's photocopies

(December) 320 @ 5p £ 16.00

Clerk's mileage (Dec)

20 @ 20p £ 4.00

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Proposed by Councillor Gartland

seconded by Councillor Hughes

and agreed.

* payment to be withheld pending confirmation of completion of work.

(iii) balances

Bank of Scotland £ 9655.00

(iv) Audit.

(a) Internal. The accounts for the period 1.10.98 - 31.12.98 would be passed by the Clerk to Councillor Hughes in due course.

(b) External. The Clerk reported the signed income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet for 1997/98 had been

returned to the auditor together with supporting notes. A small number of amendments to the supporting notes had been suggested by the Auditor and these adjustments would be made.

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 had been referred by Christine Russell MP to the Minister and a response was awaited.

(v) Budget 1999/00. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 22 December, 1998, of confirmation the Tax Base for the Parish precept would be 627.3 Band D equivalent properties. Updated budget proposals for 1999/2000 had been considered in detail by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor Hughes and a recommended budget had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman indicated that each item had been carefully considered which had resulted in the small number of amendments put forward. The Clerk indicated the figures represented an increase in the region of the six per cent increase he understood had been suggested by the Government plus the amount of £1250 which had effectively been subsidised during the previous four years by the repayment of the loan to the Community Association. In the absence of service reductions, this had now to be made up through the precept.

It was proposed by Councillor Armitage, seconded by Councillor Gartland and agreed unanimously that the budget as set out of £10375 be agreed with a precept of £9091, equating to £14.50 per Band D equivalent property.

8. Access to school.

The availability of cherry trees from the City Council had been pursued by the Clerk and a response was awaited. Councillor Gartland would inquire of the Cheshire Landscape Trust of other species which might be suitable. The Clerk was requesting the City Council to cut the boundary hedging in advance of any planting.

9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing. The Clerk reported he was arranging to purchase seven of the bag holders suggested by Henderson Horticultural Services.

The City Council would be requested to deal with accumulations at Porters Hill and on the footways from Church Lane to Cinder Lane and Fox Cover.

(ii) dog fouling. (a) Heath Bank. Nothing further to report in the absence of Councillor Mrs Astbury. (b) Church Lane. The outcome of the intended inspection by the Dog Warden was awaited. (c) Footpath no 2. A response was awaited as to the need for bins on footpath no 2. The Clerk reported an approach had been made to City Councillor B J Bailey seeking advice as to the action taken elsewhere in Chester District where footpaths were heavily and persistently fouled. City Councillor Bailey had inspected the footpath but unfortunately had no information which would assist the Council.

(iii) lengthsman. The contractor would be requested to provide dockets where work was carried out under this heading.

(iv) sewers. There was nothing to report as to any further difficulties on the Oaklands estate.

(v) Bonfires. Following the suggestion by Councillor Hughes, the position in Chester District was being ascertained from the Environmental Health Service. An approach had been made as to the availability of any advice and a note would follow in a future edition of the newsletter.

10. Trees and hedges.

(i) access adjoining Hill Top Road. The Clerk reported an appropriate letter had been sent to the occupier as to the felling of a number of trees believed to be standing on City Council owned land. A response was awaited.

(ii) Cheshire Landscape Trust. Councillor Gartland was to visit the Cheshire Landscape Trust nursery on Friday 15 January to ascertain the availability of trees and shrubs suitable for the various improvement schemes which were under consideration within the parish.

11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Double rating. The Clerk indicated an approach was being made to the City Council and to the Ward Members seeking a repayment of the 1998/99 rates for the parish car park and 100 per cent relief in future years. Councillor Armitage reported the imposition of a business rate was not ultra vires. It was hoped very much the request would have the support of the Ward Members.

It was noted the County Secretary had written a letter to Local Council Review canvassing the extent of this particular example of double rating.

(ii) Complaints procedure. Copies of the procedure would be circulated by the Clerk and an appropriate note would appear in the newsletter.

(iii) Chester Area Meeting. It was noted the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 10 March, 1999 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

(iv) Newsletter no 67. Copies of this newsletter sufficient for each Member were received and circulated.

(v) Annual report. A copy of this report was received and referred to Councillor Armitage.

(vi) Local Government Commission News December 1998. A copy of this newsletter was received and noted.

12. Chester City Council.

(i) Maintenance of churchyards and burial grounds. The Clerk reported he had received confirmation by letter dated 16 December, 1998 of the decision of the City Council Environmental and Health Services committee at their meeting on 23 November, 1998 that a grant of £750 should be made to the Parish Council towards proposed expenditure by the PCC on grounds maintenance equipment in the financial year 1999/2000. He further reported a requirement to appraise the church authorities of the criteria which should be met.

The Clerk reported subsequent approaches from City Councillor B J Bailey seeking the Council's agreement to signing a form committing them to their agreed expenditure by 31 March, 1999

on the basis the City Council were now willing to make the grant available in the current financial year to assist the church authorities. The Chairman had been consulted and had given her approval on the basis of the arrangements proposed by City Councillor Bailey. This was agreed.

(ii) Cultural provision. The Clerk was seeking further details of the information requested by the City Council.

(iii) Rural Chester Guide. The inaccurate cartographical information relating to the parish was being drawn to the attention of the Rural Economic Development Officer.

(iv) Draft Annual Plan. The Clerk reported the Council had now been formally consulted on this draft plan. Councillor Armitage had considered the document and proposed a range of comments which might be put forward. These were agreed. The Council would also express reserve as to the value of consultation which did not result in action. It was thought to be important the City Council should meet with Parishes to improve communications on planning matters. 98/99 106

(v) Members Management Arrangements. This document had been considered by Councillor Armitage who reported on the future structure of the City Council including inter alia references to the rural area and to Area Boards.

(vi) Vandeline security. It was agreed the Clerk would request this service to include the play area in any routine visiting.

(vii) Housing News Winter 1998. A copy of this newsletter was received and noted.

(viii) Funding Opportunities Newsletter no 15. A copy of this newsletter was received and referred to Councillor Hughes.

13. Cheshire County Council.

(i) Town and Parish Councils - Local Charter. The Clerk reported he had obtained a copy of a County Council agenda report setting out their proposals to review the Local Charter. Councillor Armitage confirmed the matter was being considered by the County Association.

County Councillor Fitton stressed the importance of the Charter being a two way process and of Parishes making an appropriate input.

(ii) Annual conference. It was noted the annual conference for town and parish councils would be held at Tatton Park on Tuesday 23 March at 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

(iii) Community Care Plan. The Clerk reported he had obtained a copy of the consultation draft of the Community Care Plan 1999 - 2002 in which the Council would be formally consulted. This was noted.

14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition. The Clerk confirmed that a review of the comments would be included in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter. Those aspects criticised which were outside the Council's control would be referred to the appropriate organisations

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. A response was awaited from the Divisional Commander as to progress with the proposed joint meeting between Christleton, Littleton, Mickle Trafford and Guildden Sutton to discuss the issue of nuisance youths.

(b) Guildden Sutton. City Councillor J R Boughton drew attention to a letter he had forwarded to the Divisional Commander as to the increasing problem of nuisance youths in the rural area, in particular in Guildden Sutton on Friday evenings where an incident

in late November had not been an irregular occurrence. He hoped the Divisional Commander would fulfil his promise to give positive attention to this area of the parish.

A Member expressed the view that regular visits between 9.30pm and 10.30pm on Friday evenings would be of benefit and the Divisional Commander would be informed. An invitation would be extended to PC Pye to attend the next meeting of the Council to enable concerns to be rehearsed.

(ii) drugs awareness forum. The Clerk reported he was assisting the police in making arrangements for the proposed drugs forum. The date of Monday 15 February had been canvassed as a date on which the Village Hall was available which was acceptable to the Police.

(iii) Crime and Disorder Audit 1998, consultation. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 15 December, 1998 that the date for a response had been extended to the first week in February. A series of drop in sessions were to be held, the dates of which were advised to Councillor Hughes.

(iv) Chester Police Forum. It was noted the next meeting, which Members were welcome to attend, would be held on Monday 1 February, 1999 at 7.00pm at Police Headquarters.

18. Newsletter.

The Clerk indicated he hoped to be in a position to produce an issue towards the end of the month.

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 question of proposals which might be put forward by the school and their intended funding would also be raised. The Vice Chairman referred to a major capital project being progressed by the school and believed it to be important that the extent of any contribution by the Parish Council was understood by the school.

(ii) City. Details of funding opportunities identified by the City Council were being referred to Councillor Armitage.

20. Memorial Garden.

Councillor Gartland, Parish Tree Warden, would progress the supply of hawthorn hedging from the Cheshire Landscape Trust. Members would assist in planting. Enquiries would also be made as to the availability of suitable shrubs. The Clerk would inquire as to the availability of surplus mulch from the ranger service at Caldley Valley. A response was awaited from the City Council DSO as to any expression of interest in tendering for the proposed improvement work.

21. Bulb planting.

Councillor Hughes expressed some concern that activities by the grounds maintenance contractor of either the City or County Council might affect the successful flowering of the Spring bulbs. The presence of bulbs would be advised to both authorities with a request they be avoided in any early mowing..

22. Land adjoining 2 Summerfield Road.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

23. Periodic Electoral Review.

There was nothing further to report at this stage as to progress with the proposed meeting between Christleton, Littleton and Guilden Sutton to discuss boundary issues.

24. Web site.

Councillor Hughes reported a proposal for a web page had been prepared and referred to the Vice Chairman. This would be further considered at the February meeting.

25. Parishes and IT.

The eligibility of the parish council to apply for funding for the provision of IT equipment was being pursued.

26. Replacement of Christleton High School swimming pool.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

27. Possible withdrawal of lottery terminal.

It was now understood the threat of withdrawal of the Guilden Sutton terminal had been lifted. This was welcomed. A suitable note would appear in the newsletter.

28. Involvement of youth.

With respect to the suggestion by Councillor Hughes as to possible action to encourage youths or youth organisations to take an interest in the work of the Council, the Clerk had made an approach to the Vicar as to the 15 + Group. A response was awaited.

29. Parking: Arrowcroft Road.

The matter raised by Councillor Arditti as to difficulties experienced by a resident due to inconsiderate parking by minibuses and parents involved in out of hours activities at the school had been referred to the Headteacher. A response was awaited. The resident concerned had been informed of the action taken by the Council .

30. Christmas Tree.

Mrs Alsop was being thanked for her kind offer of a Christmas Tree for the Village Hall.

31. Dates of future meetings.

It was agreed that if possible the date of the February meeting would be brought forward to 8 February 1999 to enable those Members who wished to attend the drugs awareness forum.

Proposed dates for future meetings would be:

15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 26 July, 6 September, 11 October, 15 November, 13 December 1999.

10 January , 7 February, 13 March, 10 April, 15 May 2000.

32. Refuse Collection.

The Vice Chairman believed that collections of domestic refuse during the Christmas and New Year period had led to accumulations of litter in more than one area of the Parish due to the collections not being to the usual standard. This would be referred to the Services Manager.

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 33, 34, 35 and 38 enforcement action and 36 and 37 details of the financial affairs of a third party.

33. Occupancy of property, School Lane.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

34. Enforcement action - industrial premises.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. Sale of land, Hare Lane, Guilden Sutton.

The City Council had been thanked for seeking the Council's views as to the future use of land upon which an agricultural tenancy had been surrendered and had been informed of the Council's view that the land should remain under agricultural use within the Green Belt.

38. Encroachment, Oaklands.

A Member expressed the hope that the recent purchaser of a property would be fully aware of the boundaries of his curtilage adjoining a public open space.