

GUILDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on Monday 15 October, 2001.

Chairman: Cllr D E Whitehouse.

Apologies: Cllr Hughes, City Cllrs B J Bailey and J R Boughton, County Cllr J E Burke.

Present: Cllrs Arditti, Armitage, Astbury, Fisher, Gartland, Paterson, Whitehouse.

1. Public speaking time.

There was no public speaking.

2. Procedural matters.

(i) Former Cllr P W Hughes.

Members stood in remembrance of former Cllr P W Hughes who had passed away on 7 September, 2001. The Council had been represented at the funeral service held on Thursday 13 September, 2001 at St Peter's, Plemstall.

(ii) Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 3 September, 2001, were proposed by Cllr Fisher and seconded by Cllr Astbury. Action: Agreed.

3. Planning.

(i) New applications.

01/01302/FUL, replacement of flat roof with pitched at Highfield, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Mr D Mathews. Cllr Whitehouse reported having consulted Cllr Gartland. Action: No objection.

01/01329/FUL, two storey extension at Cherry Bank, Church Lane, CH3 7EW for Mr D Howarth. Cllr Fisher reported having

consulted Cllr Paterson. The applicant had consulted neighbours. It was noted that car parking standards would not be met. Action: No objection. Local planning authority to be informed that car parking standards are not met.

(ii) Decision notices.

01/00920/FUL, extension to roof for proposed loft conversion at 54 Guilden Sutton Lane, CH3 7EY for Mr Palmer.

01/00940/FUL, two storey extension at 9 Fox Cover, Guilden Sutton CH3 7HH for Mrs E Johnson.

(iii) Current applications.

95/01052/FUL, alterations to dwelling and COU to form garden at The Bungalow, Church Lane for Mrs. C Jones, verge improvement. The Clerk reported the Parks Manager was to consider the quality of the fill material being used to level the dip in the verge.

99/00701/FUL, extension and alterations at 66 Oaklands for Mr and Mrs J Croft.

99/00772/FUL, first floor bedroom extension at 5 Cathcart Green for Mr and Mrs D Potter.

99/01031/FUL extension for disabled use at Wood Farm for Mr P Gresty.

00/00541/FUL two storey side extension at 11 Fox Cover for Mr. D Hancock.

00/00932/FUL, rear extension and extension/modification to front study at 5 Guilden Green for Mr I Armstrong.

00/01110/FUL, two storey rear extension at Fieldway, Hare Lane for Mr R Bellamy.

Proposed gas pipeline, Birch Heath - Mickle Trafford. The Clerk reported the further concerns of Cllr Hughes as to the deposit of mud at the A 51/Wicker Lane junction. Action: ERM to be advised.

00/01151/FUL (amended details) two storey side extension at Frogmore Cottage, Church Lane for Mr R Parkinson.

00/01345/FUL, provision of toilet in place of brick lean to shed, new emergency exit and internal alterations at St John's Church, Church Lane.

00/01578/FUL, conservatory at 5 Fox Cover for Mr D Cottenden.

01/00133/FUL, two storey extension and rear conservatory at 3 Heath Bank for Mrs M Higginson.

01/00454/FUL single storey side extension at 12 Fox Cover for Mr K Mohring.

01/00550/TEM, temporary change of use of agricultural building to light industrial at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane for Mr J Nicholas.

01/00551/S73 removal of condition to allow the insertion of roof lights and the use of roof space at The Paddock, Church Lane for Mrs S Carden.

01/00738/FUL, raise workshop roof on part of unit 3, Guiden Sutton Yard for A Wilding (Chester) Ltd.

01/00781/FUL, utility room extension at 8 Porters Croft, CH3 7HQ for Mr and Mrs Provan.

01/00825/FUL conservatory at The Stores, Church Lane, CH3 7EW for Mr and Mrs McDermitt.

01/00884/COU, change of use to caravan park at Rose Manor Farm, Mickle Trafford.

(iv) General.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Chester District Local Plan. Nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Rural White Paper. Cllrs Armitage and Gartland had represented the council at the seminar held on 13 October, 2001. Further information was awaited on the proposals which

appeared to be weighted towards larger councils.

4. Parish Car Park.

Concern was expressed at the overgrown appearance of the boundary planting, particularly by the back wall. Action: Inspect and revisit.

5. Leisure Services.

(i) Playing field.

(a) Risk assessment. Further information was being sought by the Clerk from the National Playing Fields Association and from RoSPA. The advice of the City Council was awaited as to the concerns raised by the grounds maintenance contractor with respect to damage to the land by mole activity.

(b) Dog fouling. The Clerk would pursue the locking of the gate by the grounds maintenance contractor. The replacement of the 'no dogs' sign was in hand.

(c) Provision for youth. Funding sources were being pursued by the Clerk as to the possible provision of a combination goal post and basket ball net. Action: City Cllr Bailey to be pursued with respect to the availability of Local Panel funding identified by the Clerk.

(d) The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 30 August, 2001, of details of the annual meeting of the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association held on 8 October, 2001 at Reaseheath College. Action: Noted.

(ii) Play Area.

(a) Safety inspections. A response was awaited from the City Council as to the estimate which had been sought regarding the cost of their inspection service. The Clerk was pursuing repairs to the see saw and the public seat. Cllr Whitehouse referred to damage to the front boundary fencing which had arisen during the installation of the safety surfacing together with other necessary maintenance. He believed this should be carried out as soon as possible on health and safety grounds. An urgent site meeting had been held with the grounds maintenance contractor

to discuss a specification for which an estimate dated 13 October, 2001 in the sum of £123.78 plus VAT had been received. It was proposed by Cllr Gartland, seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed that the estimate should be accepted. Action: Clerk instructed to authorise the work immediately.

(b) Improvement scheme. Cllr Arditti reported a successful opening of the first phase of the play area improvement on Monday 10 September, 2001 which had been attended by the Rt Worshipful, the Lord Mayor, Cllr Graham Syddall Proctor, representatives of WREN, parents and children, Members of the Council and City Cllr B J Bailey. The Headmaster had been informed. The Lord Mayor had kindly thanked parents for their generous support. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 1 October, 2001 of congratulations from the Lord Mayor. Action: Noted.

The basis of the payment of the grant of £5,640 had been resolved. This would be paid exclusive of VAT direct to the contractor. The application for the grant of £1,000 from Chester City Council had been progressed and the agreed funding had been received.

Cllr Arditti referred to a fund raising event proposed by parents to support Guilden Sutton Pre School and the improvement scheme. This was welcomed. It was agreed the priorities were the replacement of the front boundary fencing and entrance gate and the playhouse.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Parish Footpaths Group. The disappearance of the fingerpost at the Belle Vue Lane access to footpath no 2 would be referred to the Footpaths Warden.

(b) Footpath no 2. An estimate for the fixing of a replacement 'no tipping' sign was being sought from Gresty.

It was not thought that action had been taken by the District Maintenance Engineer to deal with the severely overgrown condition of this path as had been promised. Action: Clerk to pursue.

(c) Drawing the Boundaries. The advice received from the Countryside Agency as to new rights of access was being

referred to the Footpaths Warden.

(d) The Clerk was contacting the Footpaths Warden with respect to the replacement of the footpaths map in the Summerfield Road noticeboard.

(e) The Clerk reported the receipt by public notice dated 2 October, 2001 of advice from the Countryside Access Manager as to a six month extension to the closure of footpaths affected by the construction of the Birch Heath – Mickle Trafford pipeline as a result of delay caused by the foot and mouth outbreak. Individual paths would be reopened as work allowed. It was not thought that any paths would remain closed for that period of time. Action: Refer to Footpaths Warden.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance.

A response was awaited from The Cheshire Landscape Trust which had been asked to advise on the type of shrub required for the boundary planting in the parish car park and the replanting of the rose bed. Action: Clerk to pursue.

(v) Public seats. See minute 5 (ii) (a) above.

6. Public Transport.

(i) services: general. The Clerk reported the receipt of the agenda for the meeting of the Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee held on 9 October, 2001. Action: Noted.

(ii) shelters. Nothing to report.

7. Highways.

(i) Major schemes: Chester Deeside Transport System. The Council's anxiety to achieve the extension of the cycleway to Park Farm was being raised with J E Burke Esq CC.

(ii) Local matters.

(a) Wicker Lane. There was nothing further to report as to the outcome of the site meeting held on Monday,

June 4, 2001 with the Section Engineer. The Clerk reported the

receipt, by letter dated 24 September, 2001 of concerns raised by J Skelding Esq as to the state of the road. Mr Skelding had also provided photographs of conditions at the Wicker Lane/ Church Lane/ School Lane/Station Lane junction. Action: Clerk to refer to District Maintenance Engineer.

(b) Road sign, Belle Vue Lane. Action by the District Maintenance Engineer was awaited. The Clerk reported that immediate action had been taken on the other concerns raised by Cllr Fisher at the September meeting.

(c) Direction signs, Village Hall. Estimates were being requested from the highway authority.

(d) School Lane, maintenance. Action was awaited by the District Maintenance Engineer to remove a diversion sign in Hill Top Road.

(e) Footways, Arrowcroft Road. It was not known if the anticipated repairs had yet been carried out. Cllr Armitage reported concerns as to the condition of dropped kerbs at 16, 20 and 42 Arrowcroft Road. Action: Refer to District Maintenance Engineer.

(f) local safety scheme, junction A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the renewed concerns which had been referred to the highway authority. Incidents were being logged. Cllr Armitage reported he had been sandwiched. Cllr Astbury reported she had been flashed to exit the central reservation by an intending right turner but had declined to do so..

(g) The introduction of a modified parish friend scheme by the highways office had been welcomed.

(h) Damage to footways. Concerns were expressed by Cllr Paterson at the condition of footways at a number of locations. Action: Site meeting to be sought with District Maintenance Engineer. Members to advise the Clerk of areas to be inspected.

(iii) Strategic.

Nothing to report.

(iv) Street lighting.

Two faulty lights in the vicinity of the play area would be reported.

8. Finance:

(i) income.

Bank of Scotland

interest (Aug) £ 40.93

(Sept) £ 35.30

Grant

Chester City Council £ 1,000.00

Postage repayment £ 64.66

(ii) payments.

Chester Standard

Newsletter distribution £ 16.45 (VAT £2.45)

Clerk:

Salary arrears

July 2001 £ 20.00

Photocopies (Sept)

421@ 5p £ 21.05

Mileage (Sept)

20 Miles @ 40p £ 8.00

£ 49.05

Proposed by Cllr Gartland

Seconded by Cllr Astbury

and agreed.

(iii) balances

Bank of Scotland

(Aug) £17,453.90

(Sept) £17,855.06

(iv) Audit.

(a) Internal. The Clerk reported he had identified an overpayment of postage amounting to £64.66, which had been repaid, and furnished an explanation of the circumstances under which this had arisen, partly due to the absence of the books with the auditors. Action: Noted.

(b) External. The Clerk reported the accounts and supporting papers had been submitted to the auditors on

28 September, 2001. It had not been possible to satisfactorily complete the balance sheet. The receipts and payments and bank reconciliation had been signed by Cllr Hughes.

(v) Budget. The Clerk presented a spreadsheet analysis of expenditure to date together with details of expenditure and income which would be updated each month. Action: Noted.

9. Environment services:

(i) amenity cleansing. The condition of growth in the gutters had been referred to the City Council Services Manager. The Clerk had circulated an intimation from Mrs Beresford that she intended to scavenge a grot spot on Saturday 6 October, 2001. He had offered a supply of sacks if required. Action: Mrs Beresford to be thanked in the newsletter.

(ii) dog fouling. The provision of a pole to enable the mounting of

the proposed bin in the hollows would be progressed.

(iii) lengthsman. The contractor was being advised of the Council's preference for the rota to operate on a Monday to enable closer supervision.

10. Trees and hedges.

(i) Oak, Heath Bank. The highway authority was being approached as to the concern which had been expressed that the trees upon the banking might attain a height such that they would fall on adjacent property.

(ii) Sycamore, war memorial. The Clerk was to discuss with the Tree Officer the extent of the work which might be required.

(iii) Summerfield Road. The Clerk was arranging to clear foliage which was obstructing the noticeboard.

(iv) Access to school. The possible replacement of the cherries would be considered at the February, 2002 council.

(v) Cheshire Landscape Trust. The Clerk reported a request from the chairman of the trust, Mrs H Carey, for a donation. Supporting documents indicated the average annual cost, including free trees, was £85 per annum per warden. Action: Revisit in December, 2001.

(vi) Cherries adjoining footpath no 2. The Parish Tree Warden reported the receipt of a complaint by an occupier as to the effect on his light of a number of cherries planted on private land adjoining this footpath. Action: Site visit by Parish Tree Warden.

(vii) Hedges adjoining school boundary. Cllr Armitage reported these in places partly obstructed the footway at the rear of Orchard Croft due to the growth of brambles, causing a possible hazard to younger children. Action: Head to be informed.

11. Cheshire Association of Parish Councils.

(i) Annual meeting 13 October 2001. Cllrs Hughes, Armitage, Gartland and the Clerk had represented the council at the annual meeting held at Wincham Community Centre. Cllr Armitage reported. The subscription rate was to increase from 16p to 18p

to take account of the increased range of services provided by the association, amongst other factors. The annual meeting had supported a call for a public inquiry into the foot and mouth outbreak. Motions had included support for a 30 mph limit on all rural roads and roads through villages. Action: Noted.

(ii) Cllr Armitage had represented the council at the regional conference held on 22 September, 2001 in Preston.

(iii) Local Council Review, September 2001. Received and circulated.

12. Chester City Council.

(i) Ethics and Standards Committee. The Clerk reported the nomination of Cllr Armitage to represent the interest of parish councils on the City Council's Ethics and Standards Committee as chairman of the Area Meeting.

(ii) Gowy Panel 18 October, 2001. Papers for this meeting had been circulated by the Clerk.

(iii) Parish Partnership Reception 28 November, 2001. The council's representatives would be agreed at the November meeting.

(iv) Draft supplementary planing guidance. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 4 September, 2001 of draft guidance on the provision of affordable housing in new housing developments and parking provision within developments in Chester. Action: Noted.

(v) Past Uncovered, October 2001. Received and circulated.

(vi) Commonwealth Games. The Clerk reported the receipt, by undated letter, of an invitation from the Rt Worshipful, the Lord Mayor, for the Council to be represented at a meeting in connection with the Commonwealth Games to be held in the Town Hall on Monday 29 October, 2001 at noon. Action: Cllr Arditti to represent the council.

(vii) Chester Community Safety Partnership. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 8 October, 2001, of a consultation document issued by the partnership. Action: Noted.

(viii) Wrexham Resource Recovery Centre. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 10 October, 2001 of details of a public meeting to be held on Tuesday 23 October, 2001 by the Chester Rural South Local Panel to discuss this proposal. Action: Noted.

13. Cheshire County Council.

(i) Annual Town and Parish Council Conference 18 September, 2001. Cllrs Armitage, Gartland and Whitehouse had represented the council. Cllr Armitage reported.

(ii) Safe Driving Courses. The Clerk had been informed by Cllr Hughes that the course he had attended had been extremely worthwhile.

(iii) New Structure. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letters dated 5 and 19 September, 2001 of information relating to consultation on a new decision taking structure for the County Council. Action: Noted.

(iv) Chester Matters, October 2001. Received and circulated.

(v) Waste Disposal seminar. Cllr Armitage had represented the council at a waste disposal seminar held on

12 October, 2001 in St Mary's Centre, Chester.

(vi) The Cheshire Partnership, consultation. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 24 September, 2001 of this detailed consultation. Action: Cllr Armitage to provide a copy of the response of the County Association in due course to enable the completion of the consultation by the Chairman.

14. Cheshire Community Council.

(i) Village Design Statements. Nothing further to report.

(ii) Best Kept Village Competition 2001. The Clerk reported the receipt of the results. Christleton had won its class with Mickle Trafford being the most improved parish in Chester district.

(iii) Members News September 2001. Action: Noted.

(iv) Parish Transport grants. Details of a seminar to be held in Winsford on 31 October, 2001 were received. Action: Noted.

15. CPRE.

(i) Planning Update, August 2001. Action: Received and referred to Cllr Whitehouse.

16. Health.

(i) Mental Health and Learning Disability Trust. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 1 October, 2001 of consultation on this proposed new trust. Action: Noted.

17. Policing matters.

(i) Chester Police Forum. The Clerk reported the receipt of the agenda for the meeting held on 17 September 2001. The next meeting would take place on 21 January 2002.

(ii) Cheshire Crimebeat. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 12 September, 2001 of details of this initiative. Action: Noted.

18. Newsletter.

Nothing to report.

19. Golden Jubilee 2002. .

Nothing further to report at this stage.

20. Memorial Garden.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

21. Bulb planting.

A response was awaited from the highway authority as to the client in respect of the maintenance of the verges on the Guilden Sutton Lane diversion. It was agreed the budget allocation of £60 should be spent on mixed bulbs. Cllr Fisher would draw up a planting scheme.

22. Web site.

Cllr Fisher reported the site was up to date.

23. Primary school.

The Clerk reported he had been advised by the Clerk to the Governors that the correspondence had been concluded. Cllr Fisher reported the appointment of Mr Evans as Chairman and Mrs Williams as vice chairman. Action: Noted.

24. Village Hall.

A decision was awaited on the replacement of the advisory sign.

25. Covenants, shop premises.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

26. Land adjoining Summerfield Road.

Nothing further to report at this stage.

27. Drainage, Belle Vue Lane.

The outcome of the visit by the City Council's drainage engineer was not known.

28. Local radio licence for Chester.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by letters dated 12 and 13 September 2001, of details of bids by Dfm and Chester Radio respectively. Action: Noted. He reported the receipt, by letter dated 25 September, 2001 of details of an informal presentation evening held by the City Council on Monday, 8 October, 2001. Cllr Fisher reported.

29. Surgery.

It was reported the surgery held on 6 October, 2001 had attracted two constituents who had raised a number of issues. This had been disposed of as detailed beneath.

Topics raised:

Use of footpath 2 by horse riders, cycles and motor scooters:
Note to be included in newsletter, PC Tack to be informed.

Overgrown cherries adjoining footpath 2: see minute 10 (vi)
above.

30. Local Heritage Initiative.

The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 4 September,
2001, of details of this initiative. Action: Noted.

31. Clerks and Councils Direct, September 2001.

Received and noted.

32. Miss H Williams.

Cllr Paterson referred to the success of Miss H Williams in
achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. Action: Miss
Williams to be congratulated.

33. Retirement of the Rev. Canon J A Malbon.

Cllr Armitage referred to the retirement of the Vicar after 22
years in the parish. Action: Council to extend best wishes.