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Parish Council Minutes

Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 March 2006 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr P M Paterson

Present: Cllrs R M Armitage, R Bayton, D Fisher, D Hughes, P M Paterson, G Young

In attendance: Mrs J Krause, Countryside Access Manager, Cheshire County Council, County Cllr J E Burke, Cllr R E Parkin, Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council and two members of the public.

Public Speaking Time.

1 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Astbury and Proudlove.

Apologies were received from City Cllr J R Boughton.

2 Procedural matters.

(i) Declarations of interest. Members were reminded that they should declare any personal interest which they had in any matter or item to be considered at the meeting. Any declaration must be made before the matter, or item, was considered or as soon as the Member became aware a declaration was required. Similarly, if the interest was also a prejudicial one, this must be declared and the Member must leave the room and not seek to influence any decision made. Declarations were a personal matter for each Member to decide. The decision to declare, or not, was the responsibility of the Member based on the particular circumstances.

Cllr Mrs P M Paterson declared a prejudicial interest in application 05/02058/FUL ground floor front and first floor side extensions, 31 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Harding (amended) in that the applicant was undertaking work at her house and would leave the room for any discussion thereof.

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal interest in application 05/02058/FUL ground floor front and first floor side extensions, 31 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Harding (amended) in that the applicant had been a contractor to Guiden Sutton Community Association of which Cllr Hughes was Chairman.

(ii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 February 2006. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 February 2006 were proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed.

Details of the agreed budget for 2006/07 and the funding therefor would be appended to these minutes.

(iii) Dates of future meetings: 3 April, 8 May, 12 June and 17 July, 2006.

(Provisional) 11 September, 9 October, 6 November and 11 December, 2006.

(iv) Quality Parish Council status. The Clerk reported the receipt of a training bursary in the sum of £200 from the National Association of Local Councils. Action: noted.

(v) Buckingham Palace Garden Party. The Clerk reported that in response to an approach from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, which had been invited to nominate four persons to attend a Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 11 July 2006, he had submitted a nomination in the name of the Chairman for one of the places allocated to Cheshire.

3 Planning.

(i) New applications.

6/05/02107/CPO rationalisation of depot including construction of vehicle maintenance facility, two mobile office units, provision of CCTV, lighting columns and replacement fencing, refuelling facility, lorry parking bay, office parking, new ramp and roundabout. The Clerk reported his understanding that an objection to this application had been raised by Chester City Council.

06/00187/FUL conservatory at 4 Cinder Close CH3 7EP for Mr and Mrs Wilks. Further inquiries would be made by Cllr Hughes.

06/00197/FUL ground floor lounge extension at 117 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mr S Parkyn. Following a report from Cllrs Paterson and Armitage it was agreed that no objection should be raised.

(ii) Decisions:

05/00971/FUL corn/grain shed, Tile Farm, Wicker Lane, CH3 7EL for Mr and Mrs S Arden. Refusal of planning permission. It was noted the grounds for refusal were based on highways, Green Belt and residential amenity issues. The planning officer's report together with the decision notice had been circulated by the Clerk.

05/02058/FUL ground floor front and first floor side extensions, 31 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Harding. Refusal of planning permission. It was noted the planning authority believed the development would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the locality. The planning officer's report together with the decision notice had been circulated by the Clerk.

(iii) Appeal.

05/01007/FUL, temporary storage at Chespack, Chester House, Hare Lane for Mr G Parr. The Clerk reported the decision of the planning authority to refuse permission for this application on Green Belt grounds had led to an appeal. Any additional comments were due by 31 March, 2006.

(iii) General: (a) Correspondence per Barrow Parish Council. The Clerk reported the Council had been thanked by the Clerk to Barrow Parish Council for its helpful response. (b) Parish Plan. The date of the proposed pre meeting would be deferred pending the Council attending a Parish Plan seminar to be held on Wednesday 8

March, 2006 in the Burley Memorial Hall, Waverton to which the Council had been invited by Chester City Council. The area working initiative was being facilitated by the City Council and Cheshire Community Council and would look at what is involved in Parish Plans, the help and support which is available and the benefits and/or likely problems.

(c) County Environmental Planning Service, electronic communications. Further to the receipt, by letter dated 26 January 2006, of advice from the County Council Environmental Planning Service that consultation had indicated a preference for a range of policy documents to be made available through electronic communications and CD ROM, dependent on recipients being capable of receiving information in that format, the County Council was being informed that Parish Clerks in general would not have access to the standard of computing capacity usually found in the principal authorities although the Parish Council did not oppose the move.

(iv) Strategic planning. (iv) Strategic planning: statement of community involvement - consultation. Response due 2 May 2006. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 3 March, 2006, of a consultation by Cheshire County Council on the County Council's statement of community involvement for planning matters. The consultation period ran from Tuesday 21 March, 2006. Action: noted. A paper copy to be requested and forwarded to Cllr Armitage.

4 Parish car park.

There was nothing to report at this stage.

5 Leisure Services.

Playing Field (a) clearance of ditch. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr Gresty in relation to the work carried out to clear the ditch, which had now been completed. Action: Noted. An approach was being made to the highway authority as to responsibility for the ditch. Action: The Clerk.

(b) Facilities. The Clerk reported his attention had been drawn to the Cheshire Rural Enterprise People and Communities Funding Stream which enabled grants of up to £2,000 to be made available for initiatives including young people's activities. A feature was that a decision was made within the two months. Cllr Young reported she had obtained an estimate in the sum of £852 for the supply of replacement goal posts. The Council confirmed its wish that the Clerk should purchase replacement nets and that estimates should be sought for the painting of the goalposts. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were authorised to agree estimates received in advance of the April meeting. Action: The Clerk/Cllr Young.

(ii) Play Area (a) CCTV protocol. A protocol was being prepared by the Clerk. Cllr Hughes reported that following an incident in the Village Hall car park, he had arranged for the tape to be viewed in the presence of a police officer. (b) inspection check list. An updated rota had been prepared and circulated by the Clerk.

(c) annual independent playground inspection. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (d) benching. A response was awaited from the suppliers as to the condition of the benches. This would be pursued. Action: The Clerk. (e) Chester City Council Play facility policy and strategy consultation. The response prepared by the Clerk had been circulated. The Clerk reported he had addressed the Cabinet as to the desirability of the City Council call centre being available for the reporting of incidents relating to play areas and for a 'pay as you go' repair service.

(iii) Public Footpaths (a) (i) Footpath No 7. The Countryside Access Manager, Mrs Jane Krause, kindly attended to update the Council on the current position regarding the proposed order affecting this route. Mrs Krause responded to Members' questions and was thanked for her attendance by the Chairman. The Clerk reported the receipt of proposed modifications to the order affecting the width of the route. It was noted any response was due by 7 April 2006. A Member expressed concern at a reference to the route in a political newsletter circulated in the ward. Action: noted. (ii) application for traffic regulation order. The Clerk reported that Cllr Parkin had addressed the highways and transportation local joint committee. He was to be spoken to by the chairman of the committee. (b) replacement signs. The Clerk was ascertaining the cost of the replacement posts and signs required at Oxen Bridge, the Bird in Hand and Guilden Sutton Lane which the Council had agreed to fund. (c) Footpath Group. Further to the comments made by Cllr Hughes at the previous meeting with respect to the distribution of the remaining stocks of the Parish Footpaths Map, the Clerk confirmed a reference to this would appear in the next newsletter. (d) draft rights of way improvement plan 2006 - 2011. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the response made to the County Council. He reported a response had been received indicating the points therein would receive consideration. It was noted that Mrs Krause had referred to the Parish Council's request for a reinstatement of the Parish Paths Partnership which had been funded by the Countryside Agency. Mrs Krause had helpfully indicated she would welcome suggestions from the Parish Council which would benefit both the Rights of Way Unit and the parish.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance: contract. An amended invoice was awaited from the City Council.

(v) Public Seats. Following extensive damage to the public seat on Guilden Sutton Lane, estimates were being sought by the Clerk for a suitable replacement. The Clerk reported he had been approached by the City Council following a report of the damage. It was agreed that Gresty should be contacted to take appropriate action on health and safety grounds. Action: The Clerk.

(vi) Landscaping, Fox Cover. Cllr Bayton reported.

(vii) Provision for youth. Inquiries had been made by the Clerk which had confirmed the Council had powers to support the youth group established by Mr Spencer and Mr Dacre. The Clerk would contact Mr Spencer. The Chairman confirmed the group was keen to acquire electronic games and screens. Action: The Clerk.

6 Public transport. (ii) A bus strategy for Cheshire. The response prepared by the Clerk had been circulated. County Cllr J E Burke referred to the Council's suggestion that yellow American type school buses could be used for other services during downtime but indicated this was not possible due to the seating arrangement.

7 Highways:

(i) local matters: (a) speed matters: speed indicator device, Community Speed Watch, Set the Pace, Western Rural NPU trailer. Further to the suggestion by Cllr Proudlove that a publicity campaign should be launched through the school, with the assistance of PC Baker, to raise awareness of speed issues, the support of the Headteacher was to be sought by the Chairman and Clerk. Action: The Chairman, the Clerk. A request would be made to the City Council for the parish to be included on the rota for the use of the speed indicator device. Action: The Clerk. A site meeting had been held with County Cllr J E Burke on Wednesday 15 February 2006 as to the suggestion by Cllr Hughes that the 30mph signs at the approach to the parish playing field should be replaced by signs with a yellow border in order to reinforce the limit. (see further beneath.) Cllr Hughes was considering the possibility of the Council supporting the

Community Speed Watch and Set The Pace campaigns and would report further to a future meeting. It was not yet known if the Western Rural NPU trailer would be deployed within the parish but it was understood radar checks had been carried out by the police on Guilden Sutton Lane. This was welcomed. The question of the provision of high visibility clothing for residents and children would be raised initially with the Headteacher in order to gauge the extent of possible interest. (b) Wicker Lane. (i) The completion of the proposals for lining and signing from the vicinity of Cinder Lane to Station Lane was awaited. (ii) condition/provision for pedestrians, dialogue with residents 22 February 2006. Cllr Paterson reported. Consideration had been given to the provision of kerbing to protect the verges outside properties. The highway authority was sympathetic to the concept of passing places. The possibility would be considered of securing a widened access at the entrance to Tile Farm to avoid damage to the opposite verge. The possibility of a footpath from Cinder Lane to the Vicarage had been discussed. It had been indicated the quiet lane concept was inappropriate. The Chairman was pleased to report the dialogue had been seen to be quite positive. Cllr Fisher reported the lack of disabled access from Cinder Lane to the village shops had been raised. It had also been noted that overgrown hedges should be dealt with. (iii) Complaints by Mr Fenwick. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the outcome of the promised inquiries by the highway authority into the planning position. (iv) boundary sign. A response was awaited to the Council's offer to the highway authority to meet 50% of the cost of a village boundary sign towards the A51. (c) gateway treatment, Guilden Sutton Lane - red patch SLOW marking, high visibility 30mph signs. A site meeting had been held on Wednesday 15 February 2006 with County Cllr J E Burke on the basis the scheme at Wicker Lane would protect two of the three principal approaches to the village, leaving Guilden Sutton Lane less protected at the approach to the playing field. County Cllr Burke indicated a response to the issues raised was awaited. (d) Condition of the footway. The concerns expressed at the condition of the footway at two locations on Oaklands and Hill Top Road would be revisited at a future meeting.

(iii) Lighting. (i) A 41. The Council's request for street lighting to be installed on the A41 between the Hoole Hall Roundabout and the existing lighting on the dual carriageway had been referred to County Cllr J E Burke. (ii) School Lane. A gap in the lighting in School Lane was being referred to the lighting authority.

8 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank of Scotland:

Interest	£ t/f
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Chester City Council

Graveyard grant	£ 250.00
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NALC Training bursary	£ 200.00
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Donations

Re 2005 wreath	£ 18.00
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(ii) Payments

Chester City Council

grounds maintenance

(part year) £ 678.50 (includes VAT £101.05)*

Gresty

Work to playing field ditch,

Supply of bulbs £ 325.47 (includes £48.47 VAT.)

S & H Services

Shelter cleaning £ 14.00

Mrs R Mort

Playing field rent

April- June 2006 £ 137.50

Clerk

Photocopies

2004/05 £ 110.00

2005/06 £ 99.40

Mileage

8 @ 40p £ 3.20

Parking £ 1.50

£ 214.10

* payment withheld pending revised invoice

Proposed by Cllr Hughes, Seconded by Cllr Armitage, and agreed.

(iii) Balances:

Bank of Scotland

(24 January) £12,311.87

Scottish Widows

(3 January) £ 8,433.04

(iv) Report on contingency payments. There had been no change.

(v) Audit: (a) Informal Member Audit. The Clerk had completed accounts for the first six months of the current financial year for consideration by Cllr Hughes. These would be referred following their completion for the remainder of the financial year. Action: The Clerk. (b) external. The notice of conclusion of the audit had been displayed.

(vi) Insurance 2005/06. An application form had been obtained from the insurers with respect to the proposed increase in the fidelity limit. Further consideration would be given to a number of individual elements within the insurance.

(vii) Banking facilities. The Clerk had obtained details of a suitable alternative current account which could be operated through the village post office. Those Members who wished to be signatories would notify the Clerk to enable the application to be completed. Action: All Members.

(viii) General. (a) Payment of duplicate affiliation fee (£14) to the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association. Reimbursement was awaited.

(ix) Budget 2006/07. Details of the budget would be appended to these minutes.

9 Environment services: (i) amenity cleansing. It was thought some cleansing had taken place at some of the locations previous reported. These had included the steps from Cinder Lane to Church Lane, public footpath No 2, the path from Oaklands to Orchard Croft, the path at the rear of Orchard Croft and the accesses either side of the A55 bridge on Belle Vue Lane together with the access to Belle Vue Path. The quantities of leaves raised by Cllr Astbury on the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane near the junction with the A41 had been reported. Action: The Clerk. (ii) dog fouling. (iii) litter bins. (iv) lengthsman. (v) sewers. There were no action items to report under these headings.

10 Trees and hedges. (i) Inquiries were being made by the Clerk of Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council as to its procedure for dealing with instances of trees and hedges overhanging the footway.

(ii) Viewpoint, Wicker Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the arboricultural proposals. The Clerk said he was aware that issues of land ownership remained but these were not a matter for the Parish Council. (ii) tree, the dell. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the possible removal of a tree from the dell.

11 Cheshire Association of Local Councils. (i) Details of the 2006/07 salary award were received and referred to Cllr Armitage. (ii) double taxation. The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 23 February, 2006, of advice from the City Council as to the dual taxation payment. It was noted the payment could be spent at the discretion of the Parish Council although it was expected it would be applied to expenditure on concurrent functions. (ii) Gowy North Area Committee, special planning meeting Thursday 2 March 2006. Cllrs Armitage, Fisher and Hughes reported. The meeting had considered the Quinn Glass integrated pollution prevention control permit application and the application by Peel Holdings Ltd for a waste treatment plant at Ince. County Cllr J E Burke indicated this might be considered by the County Council Executive in April. Any decision on the proposed thermal treatment plant would be a matter for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

12 Chester City Council (i) Maintenance of churchyards and burial grounds. The Clerk was pleased to say the application on behalf of the Parochial Church Council to secure a grant towards the costs incurred by the Parochial Church Council in maintaining the churchyard had been successful. (ii) Gowy North Area Committee 2 February 2006. It

was noted the next closing date for applications for grants from the area committee was 21 April 2006. (iii) Emergency information bottles. The availability of the remaining supply of emergency information bottles would be further publicised in the newsletter. (iv) Chester in Partnership Wednesday 8 March 2006. The Council noted the Chester in Partnership event 2006 would be held at Chester Town Hall on Wednesday 8 March, 2006 from 10am to 3pm.

13 Cheshire County Council (i) Annual Town and Parish Councils Conference Wednesday 8 February 2006, Tenants Hall, Tatton Park. The Clerk had attended. Topics had included a review by the Chief Executive of alterations to the structure of public services in Cheshire, waste, changes to education provision and the Cheshire Youth Parliament. (ii) The Clerk reported the receipt, by letter dated 28 February 2006, of an invitation for representatives to attend a briefing session for town and parish councils on the North West Regional Spatial Strategy to take place on Friday 21 April, 2006 in the Civic Hall, Winsford. Members wishing to attend would advise the Clerk.

14 Cheshire Community Council. (i) Affiliation to Cheshire County Playing Fields Association. (see above)

15 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

16 Health. There were no action items to report.

17 Policing. (i) Police Community Support Officers. Cllr Fisher and the Clerk reported. It was noted the issue had attracted adverse publicity (ii) Police force restructuring. The Clerk reported. It was noted the possible merger of the Cheshire and Merseyside forces, to be imposed by the Home Secretary, had attracted adverse publicity.

18 Newsletter. The Clerk confirmed a further newsletter would be prepared prior to the end of the financial year.

19 Memorial garden. Cllr Armitage reported.

20 Bulb planting. There was nothing further to report this stage.

21 Parish ICT. Cllr Fisher reported. An informal response had been made to an indication by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils that funding might be available for technological improvements, for example a colour printer which would enable the Parish Council to print the newsletter. Cllr Fisher further indicated the benefits of updated software in terms of maintaining the village website. It was agreed this should be purchased.

22 Primary School. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

23 Maintenance of street furniture. Further estimates were being sought by the Clerk for maintenance to the noticeboards, public seats and shelter seating. Action:
Noted.

24 Withdrawal of telephone kiosks. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

25 Africa. The Chairman reported on a meeting with Mr Spencer and Mr Dacre. It was noted Mr Spencer and Mr Dacre wished to speak to the Parish Council and to answer any questions Members had. Members were of the view the issue had been discussed for several months and they were not persuaded there was a role for the Parish Council. It was resolved that Mr Spencer and Mr Dacre should be advised the

issue should be progressed through a public meeting and any support for the matter should be derived from the community. Those members of the Parish Council who wished to do so would offer their support on an individual basis with other members of the public. This was agreed.

26 Cheshire Fire Brigade. There were no action items to report.

27 Members' information items.

CCTV. Council Hughes referred to the CCTV equipment and suggested that advice might be sought from the contractor as to a possible upgrading. He recommended that replacement tapes should be purchased. Action: Clerk to seek advice from the contractor, purchase of tapes to be agreed at the April meeting.

27 Information correspondence:

ChALC/NaLC: Newsletter 106, February 2006; Local Council Review March 2006.

Chester City Council: community safety contacts information.

Cheshire County Council: Cheshire Matters, February 2006; Public Paths, a guide to problems and protocols; Highways Agency M6 study, Tatton Park Friday 7 April 2006.

Cheshire Community Council: Cheshire Rural View February 2006; Cheshire Rural Transport Partnership; The Playing Field Winter 2005/06.

CPRE: Chester district AGM Monday 20 March, 2006 7.30pm Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Disability rights.

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public

28 Clerk's terms and conditions. The Clerk was reviewing the proposed contract.