



Parish Council Minutes

[Main Menu](#)

[Home](#)

[Introduction](#)

[History](#)

[Parish Councillors](#)

[Role of PC](#)

[PC Meeting Dates](#)

[PC Minutes](#)

[PC Newsletters](#)

[Community](#)

[Association](#)

[Marigold Newsletter](#)

[St John's Church](#)

[Methodist Chapel](#)

[Political](#)

[Representatives](#)

[Police](#)

[Schools](#)

[Local Transport](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

[What's On](#)

[Lottery Results](#)

[Local Weather](#)

[Links](#)

Guiden
Sutton
Parish
Council

Minutes of
the Annual
Parish
Meeting of
the Council
held in
Guiden
Sutton
Village Hall
on Monday
16th May
2005

Chairman: Cllr D
Hughes

Present:
Councillors
Armitage,
Astbury, Bayton,
Fisher, Hughes,
Paterson,
Proudlove.

In attendance: S
Hyslop Esq,
Managing
Director,
ChesterBus,
County Cllr J E
Burke and 17
members of the
public.

1 Apologies. Cllr
Young, City Cllr J
R Boughton.

2 Minutes. The
Minutes of the
Annual Parish
Meeting held on
10 May 2004
were proposed by
Cllr Astbury,
seconded by Cllr
Fisher and
approved.

3 Reports.
Reports were presented and received on the work of the Council during 2004/05.

4 Questions from the electors.

The Chairman welcomed Mr S Hyslop, Managing Director, ChesterBus to the meeting. Cllr Astbury referred to concerns which had arisen as to ChesterBus services which had been lost and changes to departure points in the city. There were also concerns that time tables were not being followed. Cllr Bayton referred to departures on the 80 service prior to the advertised time and pointed out the 1720 return from Chester Business Park was of no value to those leaving at 1730.

Members of the public referred to difficulties with ChesterBus services and to the fact the 80 service appeared unwilling to proceed to Guilden Sutton on return journeys.

Mr Hyslop responded to the concerns which had been raised.
The 0900 35

service had been withdrawn due to insufficient passenger numbers. The 80 was a contract service organised by Cheshire County Council.

Cllr Astbury referred to the loss of the late afternoon 37 service to Kelsall and Mr Hyslop indicated the subsidy had been in excess of the guideline threshold of £2 per passenger.

Cllr Armitage remarked the Sunday service which had operated through the village for a number of years had required a subsidy of £10 per passenger prior to its withdrawal. There had been fewer than six passengers a day.

Mr Hyslop and County Cllr Burke agreed to consider requests the 0900 35 service should be reinstated and changes made to the 1720 departure time of the 80 service ex Chester Business Park.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hyslop for his attendance. Cllr Astbury asked that passengers should be informed of any developments.

A resident referred to parking difficulties on Arrowcroft Road. It was agreed PC Baker should be informed.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked members of the public in attendance.

Guilden
Sutton
Parish
Council

Annual
parish
meeting 16
May, 2005

Chairman's
annual
Report -
summary

2004/05 has again been an extremely busy period for the Parish Council on behalf of the local community. Monthly meetings have been held throughout the year, apart from August, together with site meetings. There have been extensive consultations on planning applications which have properly taken a great deal of time. A major capital project was completed involving the refurbishment of the children's

play area at a cost in excess of £20,000, virtually all of which, subject to final accounting, will have been met through grants, fund-raising and insurance.

The Council has continued in membership of a wide range of outside bodies and Guilden Sutton has again provided both the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Chester Area Meeting of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Members and the Clerk attended a wide range of conferences and meetings held by Cheshire County Council, Chester City Council, Cheshire Community Council, the Cheshire Planning Forum, the CPRE and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. These meetings bring valuable information to the parish to assist the Council in the conduct of its business and enable Members to make useful contacts with Members and Officers of other authorities.

A number of significant issues have been under consideration or review and there have been

consultations on a wide range of other matters which in one way or another affect the parish.

For 2005/06 there was a small increase in the budget from £11,338 to £12,000 which was fully funded from the parish precept. The precept is approximately £1.50 per month for an average band D house in the parish. The Council condemns believes this represents good value for money but remains fully committed to spending council taxpayers' money wisely and to securing grants towards expenditure wherever this is possible, as illustrated above.

The Council is pleased that a step was taken towards rectifying the long standing anomaly of double taxation in that the City Council agreed a grant to parishes of 50p per elector towards the cost of providing services which are provided at no extra charge to people living in non parished areas. This brought in more than £700 to the parish and it is hoped the sum will increase in future years.

Special thanks are due to Cllr Armitage who played a leading role in the negotiations on behalf of all parishes in Chester district.

A wide range of issues has been dealt with during the year. The Council is very aware of its responsibility to speak out for local interests and this is reflected in its very detailed monthly agenda. All issues, both large and small, are considered equally.

The Council was pleased to congratulate City Cllr John Boughton, one of Guilden Sutton's two city councillors, on his election as Sheriff for 2004/05 and to attend a regalia talk at the Sheriff's invitation at the Town Hall. Following the recent elections, the council has also congratulated Mrs Christine Russell MP and County Cllr John Burke on their re election. We were also pleased to welcome the Revd Sara Cliff, the Methodist minister for Guilden Sutton, to one of our meetings . The Council was represented at the annual

wreath laying within the village on Remembrance Sunday and at the Lord Mayor of Chester's annual civic service. The Council was sad to hear of the deaths of former councillors R Davies and M Dutton.

During the year, the Council was consulted on 36 planning applications compared with 31 in the previous year and 20 in the year before that. A majority of the applications involved extensions of various sizes. The Council raised only three formal objections but did take the opportunity in a minority of cases to refer to the overall increase in the size of the extended properties in relation to the local planning authority guidelines and to the possibility of overlooking from first floor windows in side elevations.

It is worth noting that attempts by T Mobile to gain permission for an installation at Tile Farm continue. The company has now put forward an application for a 37.5m high mast compared with a 22.5m high mast for which plans were previously withdrawn. The Council is

seeking further information and has asked for consultation and a public meeting.

Of the decisions notified to the Council during the year, two were refused by the local planning authority on the basis the plans would not safeguard the quality of the environment. The third was said to be overdevelopment. In one case, it was indicated it would be unlikely that any further development would be allowed at the property.

A planning appeal involving proposals for a two storey dwelling in the village was dismissed.

Concerns were raised by the Council that there is no legal requirement for dimensions to appear on planning applications.

It was confirmed that all permitted development rights are withdrawn on the Oaklands estate.

The Council noted that matters such as parish transport plans, village design statements and parish plans are of increasing importance and is

to receive a presentation on parish plans at its June meeting. A parish plan enables the parish council to have a great influence on development within the village.

On strategic matters, the Council commented on draft alterations to the county structure plan, had previously commented on the draft Chester District Local Plan which has yet to be adopted and put forward views on a proposed plan covering waste disposal.

So far as Leisure Services are concerned, the Council was very pleased indeed that it was possible to complete the refurbishment of children's play area, opened by the Sheriff of Chester. Funding for this project was made possible by generous grants from WREN, Awards for All, Chester City Council, insurance and generous donations from local fund-raisers. The Council was pleased to congratulate Cllr Proudlove who had devoted very many hours to combat making the play area

become a possibility.

Consideration continues to be given to provision for youth and the Council shared the disappointment that the circulation of a leaflet within the parish seeking support did not receive a more positive response.

The major issue is a proposal by the County Council to upgrade the status of Public Footpath No. 7 on the boundary of Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford to a byway open to all traffic. A public inquiry is likely but the Council has been informed that the basis of its objection cannot be taken into account by the inspector. Nonetheless the Council has indicated it wishes to continue with its representations. The likely outcome could be that a traffic order would be imposed if a nuisance arose through its use by mechanically propelled vehicles. On the general issue of such footpaths being upgraded to enable them to be used by such vehicles, representations were made to the

Minister through
the MP.

The Council has
consulted
Summerfield
House on
possible locations
for new public
seats in the
parish and these
are under review.

So far as public
transport is
concerned,
concern has
recently emerged
as to changes to
ChesterBus
services to the
parish. During
the year, the
Sunday and Bank
Holiday service,
provide by a
different operator,
was redrawn. At
the request of a
resident, seats
were provided in
the tree bus
shelters.

A decision is
awaited on the
scheme to extend
the cycleway to
Guilden Sutton
and Mickle
Trafford.

A wide range of
highways issues
have been dealt
with during the
year including a
site meeting on
Wicker Lane to
discuss the
deteriorating
condition of the
verges and the
speed and
volume of traffic.
Use continues to
made of speed
indicating
equipment
available from the
City Council.
Although most
drivers proceed
at or near the

limit, the Council is disappointed that in some cases speeds exceed 50 mph. A request was made for a speed limit on the A41.

The Council's accounts for 2003/04 received a clean audit.

Grounds maintenance in the parish has for a number of years been undertaken by a local contractor. An alternative was offered by the City Council which the Council believed it had no alternative but to pursue, albeit with some reluctance. The Council was pleased that during the year the City Council extended the period during which there is a more frequent collection of green waste.

Difficulties with the sewerage system on Church Lane were pursued with United Utilities.

hands have recently arisen as to the felling of trees in the dell and this has been taken up with the City Council. No objection was raised an application by a resident to fell a protected tree. The Council continues to benefit from the

Cheshire
Landscape Trust
and supported
the organisation
with a modest
donation.

The Council
continued to
support PC Rob
Boulton in his
policing of the
village, including
participation in
ward walks.
Following a
reorganisation of
the force, PC
Boulton has now
been replaced by
PC Mal Baker.

For the first time,
bulb planting by
the Parish
Council included
a quantity of
bluebells.

The village
website is now
hosted by
Cheshire County
Council which
has led to a
modest saving in
cost.

The Council
thanked the
acting head of
the primary
school and the
chairman of the
school governors
for the exemplary
service given by
the staff. Cllr
Fisher continues
as a member of
the governing
body and the
Council is
pleased that Cllr
Proudlove has
been appointed
an associate
governor.

An order has
been placed for a
replacement
noticeboard for
Guiden Sutton

Lane.

The Council was pleased that a suggestion that Christleton ward should be transferred to the Eddisbury parliamentary constituency was rejected.

Three matters raised at last year's annual parish meeting were progressed. Concerns about postal deliveries were raised with Royal Mail, a maintenance matter was referred to the highway authority and resolved and concerns were raised, again with the highway authority, as to access issues for people in wheelchairs and those with prams and pushchairs using lanes on the fringes of the village.

A request has been made that the Council might consider the possibility of twinning with a deprived community in sub Saharan Africa. This has yet to be considered.

The Council keeps in almost daily contact with the principal authorities and other organisations on a wide range of issues ranging from pot holes and faulty street

lights to other current and proposed issues which would affect the well being of the parish.

The Council would wish to thank the city and county councils, our local city and county councillors and Mrs C M Russell MP for their help and support during the year. The Chairman would also wish to pay tribute to the Council for its hard work during the last 12 months and believes the parish is fortunate that Members are able to come forward with their time to serve the community.