

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 1 September 2008 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr D Fisher.

Present: Cllrs I Brown, D M Fisher, D Hughes, J Hughes, M Kerfoot, W Moulton, P M Paterson, M S J Roberts.

In attendance: County Cllr E Johnson.

Public Speaking Time.

Mrs Y Kirk referred to her previous correspondence and thanked the Council for its response. Mrs Kirk referred to the village bus service and the need for improvement, including a Sunday bus; road signs which were obscured by vegetation; the removal of redundant gas markers from Belle Vue Lane; the speed of traffic on Guilden Sutton Lane; the need for warning signs on Porters Hill; the unacceptable quantity of litter on parts of Guilden Sutton Lane and the condition of Station Lane. Mrs Kirk was assured by the Chairman that the issues she had raised would be considered and was thanked for her attendance.

1 Apologies. Apologies were received from City Cllr B J Bailey, City Cllr S Parker and PC M Baker.

2 Procedural matters.

(i) Cllr Jane Hughes. The Chairman formally welcomed Cllr Jane Hughes as a member of the Council.

(ii) 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 after making a statement should they so wish under clause 12 (ii) of the code. 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 Jane Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 08/01150/FUL (amended description) replacement conservatory extension, enlargement of dwelling by adding front and rear roof dormers at Wicker House, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Mr G Hughes.

Cllr Derek Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 08/01230/FUL replace existing wooden frame windows with uPVC windows at Flat 2, Post Office, Summerfield Road for Mrs K Smith.

Cllr Michael S J Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 08/01230/FUL replace existing wooden frame windows with uPVC windows at Flat 2, Post Office, Summerfield Road for Mrs K Smith.

Cllr Michael S J Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to a Member's information items relating to graffiti.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 21 July 2008 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 21 July in Guilden Sutton Village Hall were proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Kerfoot and agreed.

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(iv) Dates of future meetings: 6 October, 10 November and 1 December 2008.  
5 January, 2 February, 2 March, 6 April, 11 May, 8 June, 20 July, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November,  
7 December 2009.

(v) Quality Parish Council issues. The Chairman referred to the training which was to be undertaken on 2 September 2008 by himself, the Vice Chairman and Cllr Moulton and commended the concept of training in general. It was noted that details of remaining courses to be held in 2008 by the Cheshire Training Partnership had been circulated by the Clerk. The Council agreed that Members who were interested in a particular course would notify the Clerk with a view to the Council being represented on each of the remaining courses with those Members attending reporting back.

(vi) Vacancy: to co-opt a Member. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Jane Hughes had completed the declaration of acceptance of office together with the register of Member's interests which were being forwarded to the City Council.

(vii) Primary School Travel Group. Following the presentation by Mr G Collins at the July meeting, which had highlighted a large number of issues in which both the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Steering Group had an interest, it was agreed that Cllr Hughes and the Clerk should be nominated to attend a future meeting of the group in connection with these issues.

### 3 Planning.

#### (i) New applications:

##### Householder issues:

08/01150/FUL (amended description) replacement conservatory extension, enlargement of dwelling by adding front and rear roof dormers at Wicker House, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL for Mr G Hughes. Following a report from Councillors Derek Hughes and Brown it was agreed that no objection should be raised as the Council was not persuaded the proposal would have an unacceptable harm on the openness of the Green Belt.

08/01154/FUL demolish existing conservatory and replace with single storey extension at 67 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mrs J Tindle. Following a report from Councillors Paterson and Brown, it was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/01230/FUL replace existing wooden frame windows with uPVC windows at Flat 2, Post Office, Summerfield Road for Mrs K Smith. Following a report from Cllr Brown, it was agreed that no objection should be raised.

08/01544/FUL garage to side of dwelling at Cherry Bank, Church Lane for Mr D Phillips. Following a report from Cllr Fisher, it was agreed that no objection should be raised. The Council would indicate its pleasure that a sandstone wall was to be retained.

#### (ii) Decision notices.

08/01084/FUL two storey extension at Polruan, Belle Vue Lane for Mr M Jones. Refusal of planning permission. Inappropriate development within the Green Belt. Proposed extensions would be out of scale and keeping with the original dwelling and amount to disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original property. No special circumstances. Size and design would appear out of keeping and detrimental to the character and appearance of the rural part of the district.

08/01154/FUL demolish existing conservatory and replace with single storey extension at 67 Oaklands CH3 7HG for Mrs J Tindle. Planning permission. Condition re approval being required for any future side window.

08/01230/FUL replace existing wooden frame windows with uPVC windows at Flat 2, Post Office, Summerfield Road for Mrs K Smith. Planning permission.

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(iii) Development control consultations. The Council confirmed its view that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should be copied in to non contentious recommendations as a matter of course apart from being consulted on more major issues.

(iv) Parish Plan: progress report. Cllr Paterson reported that questionnaires had been distributed and 100 had been returned. It was noted there was still time for forms to be completed and this would be publicised in the forthcoming issue of the newsletter together with an indication that spare copies were available from Cllr Paterson. It was hoped a feedback meeting would be arranged in due course.

(v) Strategic planning. (a) Chester Local Development Framework, core strategy issues and options: The consultation and current situation in July 2008. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice from the City Council as to the outcome of this consultation which had sought views on nine possible options for future development within Chester District, all of which had implications for the Green Belt. It was noted it was now proposed that as a result of the outcome of the local government review, a new Local Development Framework would be developed for Cheshire West and Chester which would take account of the views which had been put forward.

4 Parish car park.

(i) Grounds maintenance. The need for the boundary planting and the condition of the hard surfacing to be returned to specification had been discussed at a meeting with the grounds maintenance contractor.

(ii) Improvement scheme. The Clerk reported he was seeking estimates for work to the trees and also to the boundary planting in order to progress the improvement scheme which was due to be completed by mid-October. Should estimates be received within a total expenditure of £2,000, it was agreed progress could be authorised by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in consultation with the Parish Tree Warden. If it was not possible to obtain a sketch of the proposed planting, a site meeting would be sought at which the proposals could be explained by the successful contractor. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iii) Repairs to signage. At this stage, the Clerk had been unable to obtain an estimate for the replacement of the rotten leg and had approached an alternative contractor for an estimate for the replacement of the entire sign which, on inspection, was in need of refurbishment.

5 Leisure Services.

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. The condition of the ditch, which would normally have 1 no clearance a year, would be revisited at the October meeting.

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

(c) Repairs to goalmouths. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) State of nets. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Basket ball equipment. The condition of the mesh would be revisited at the October meeting.

(ii) Children's Play Area.

(a) CCTV and CCTV protocol. The CCTV protocol would be revisited in due course.

(b) Inspections. Cllr Paterson and the Clerk referred to the continuing deterioration in the condition of the safety surfacing. The outcome of the statutory annual inspection would be awaited pending a further approach to the contractor. A revised rota would be prepared by the Clerk.

(c) Litter bin emptying. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

08/09 044

(d) Grounds maintenance issues. The need for the boundary hedge to be cut during the summer period had been progressed at a meeting with the grounds maintenance contractor.

(e) Cleansing of equipment. The Clerk reported that on the advice of the City Council, an approach had been made to a specialised contractor for an estimate for the proposed cleansing.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Footpath 7. The Clerk reported that further to the complaints raised by a member of the public at the July meeting, he had immediately contacted the Rural Inspector, in the absence of PC Baker, who had helpfully arranged for immediate attention to be given to the issue. He now understood that PC Baker had been in regular contact with the member of the public concerned as to the issues which he had raised and had again contacted the occupier on his return from leave in August. It was understood the problem had subsided.

(b) Footpath 2. (i) Site meeting. Following the site meeting which he had attended with City Cllr S Parker and the relevant officer on Tuesday 11 March 2008 as to the condition of the footpath, the Clerk reported he was still awaiting advice from the City Council officer as to seeking a quotation from an alternative contractor. The Chairman expressed concern at the continuing deterioration in the condition of the path. (ii) Sign, Church Lane. It was not known at this stage what action, if any, had been taken by the Public Rights of Way Unit as to the position of the signpost at the junction of Church Lane and Footpath 2 which had been raised with the unit by the Parish Paths Warden. (iii) Maintenance. There was nothing further to report this stage as to the outcome of the Clerk's representations to the Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee with respect to the maintenance of the new steps for Footpath 2, the adjoining level section of the path and the adjoining section of the Longster Trail running between the hedges on Cinder Lane. (iv) Steps. It was noted the surface of the steps was already suffering from detritus. (v) Arisings. The Clerk would make a further inspection of the arisings deposited at the side of the path following maintenance to a hedge and report further.

(c) Footpath 1. Further to the minute beneath, the Clerk reported the receipt of a report, by letter dated 11 August 2008, from the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society which had encountered no problems on the route during a walk. Otherwise, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Parish Paths Group. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Mid Cheshire Footpath Society. The report referred to above, which had included Footpaths 7, 5, 6 and 4 on which there had also been no problems, would be referred to the Parish Paths Warden.

(f) Permissive path, Station Lane. The suggestion that a permissive path should be created from the junction of Footpath 7 and Station Lane back to the village to complete the circular walk had been referred to the Public Rights of Way Unit. A helpful reply had been received suggesting that due to staffing difficulties, the creation of such a path would not be a priority for the unit although it would be seen as extremely helpful if prior approval in principle could be negotiated with the landowner by the Parish Council. This was noted.

(g) Parish Small Grants Scheme for Countryside Access Improvements. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 14 August 2008, of advice of a successful bid by the County Council for funding to again run the scheme in 2008/09. The aim would be to provide parish and town councils with funding towards projects which would attract countryside users and assist the local economy through grants of up to £2,000. There was a requirement for projects to be completed by 31 March 2009. It was agreed this would be referred to the Parish Paths Warden.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance.

(a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Parish Council contract 2008/09. Cllr Hughes reported that accompanied by the Clerk, he had walked the contract with the contractor.

(v) Public Seats. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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(vi) Landscaping, Fox Cover. The present high standard of the planting was again complimented.

(vii) Provision for youth. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(viii) Cheshire Year of Gardens.

A letter of congratulations had been sent to Cllr Kerfoot expressing the Council's appreciation to all involved in this extremely successful event. The Clerk reported satisfactory supporting documentation had been submitted as to the expenditure incurred and a cheque had been issued on the basis of urgency as agreed at the previous meeting and minuted for confirmation below.

#### 6 Public transport.

(i) Bus services. The continuing concerns raised by Mrs Y Kirk at public speaking time, including the need for improved bus services together with a Sunday service, were noted.

(ii) Public meeting. It was confirmed that a public meeting in the form of a drop in would be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16 September from 7pm to 8.30pm. This would be publicised in the newsletter.

(iii) Accessibility strategy. The Clerk informed the County Council was consulting on an accessibility strategy on which consultation was at present in progress and which would close on **Friday 19 September 2008**. This would cover issues such as residents having problems getting transport to the doctor's surgery, work or shops.

#### 7 Highways.

(i) Strategic matters. There was nothing to report.

(ii) Local matters.

The Clerk reported that in support of the issues minuted beneath from previous meetings, he had met the Area Maintenance Engineer and had raised the following:

#### Maintenance:

Oaklands, carriageway defects approaching junction with School Lane at Wood Farm.

Guilden Sutton Lane, trip hazard at the site of a fall.

Guilden Sutton Lane, drainage issue at a field entrance.

Wicker Lane, proposed resurfacing.

Station Lane, condition.

Obscured road signs including Belle Vue Lane and Station Lane.

Migration of gravel.

Condition of cycle route Church Lane - Cinder Lane.

Overgrown hedges, Cinder Lane.

Guilden Sutton Lane, lighting obscured by trees.

Guilden Sutton Lane, overgrown hedges at two properties.

Footpath 2, condition.

Heath Bank, shrubbery, need for pruning.

Guilden Sutton Lane, obstruction of footway by nettles.

School Lane, encroachment onto the highway.

Traffic:

A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane, road rage, double parking in the gap, reinstatement of crossroads, installation of traffic signals, provision of crossing for cyclists and pedestrians as part of a safe route to school, traffic conditions on car boot Sundays.

Speed reviews, A41, Guilden Sutton Lane, Wicker Lane, Hare Lane.

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Signing and lining: Guilden Sutton Lane at playing field, extend red patch "SLOW" marking and restore disturbed surface.

Porters Hill, remove centre line, add in edgeline, increase width of footway, provide rumble strips, install signals, reduce tree canopy.

Summerfield Road, disabled parking bay at shops.

Permissive paths, Station Lane, Wicker Lane.

Hare Lane, speed of traffic, double parking in vicinity of Rugby Club.

Wilding Business Estate, emerging traffic.

SatNavs, request for weight restrictions on unsuitable roads.

The Clerk had suggested it might be appropriate for a site meeting to enable officers to inspect some of the issues which he had raised.

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device. Inquiries were being made by the Clerk as to the availability of alternative SID equipment for the proposed September session. (ii) Police radar. A renewed approach would be made to the Project Rural Matters Co-ordinator, Mr D Bowker, as to a police radar check being carried out within the parish on the basis of the information gathered by the speed indicator device and the concerns expressed by a Member as to the proportion of motorists exceeding the limit.

(b) Signing and lining schemes. (i) Gateway treatment, Guilden Sutton Lane - red patch SLOW marking. A response was awaited from the highway authority. (ii) The suggestion by Cllr Kerfoot of a lining scheme or rumble strips on Porters Hill to improve safety had been raised with the highway authority.

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice, by correspondence dated 11 August 2008, of a proposal by the highways authority to introduce a 30mph limit on the present 40mph limit. Average speed of traffic had been measured at 39 mph but the new limit was justified as Guilden Sutton Lane was assessed to be a village. The three year personal injury accident record had also been taken into account. The Clerk reported he had sought clarification that the limit would apply to Heath Bank and to the truncated section of Guilden Sutton Lane. It was agreed that no objection should be raised although the highway authority would be asked to note the Parish Council's understanding the lighting was to footway standard only. County Cllr E Johnson reported further.

(d) Speed review, Wicker Lane/Hare Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Hare Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the concerns with respect to the speed of traffic on Hare Lane and double parking in the vicinity of the rugby club.

(f) Footway rear Cathcart Green/Summerfield Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(g) Street nameplates, Hill Top Road, Belle Vue Lane. It was understood the Hill Top Road sign had been replaced.

(h) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(i) Flags, Summerfield Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(j) Disabled access to shops. The issues identified at the meeting between the Clerk and the Access Officer on 19 December 2007 would be revisited.

(k) Condition of carriageway, Oaklands. Action was awaited in respect of the reported faults on Oaklands which had been raised with the highway authority.

(l) Field boundary adjoining the footway. The Clerk had pursued the concerns expressed by a Member that following his site meeting, repairs had been intended to the footway and had been informed that no defect had been found.

(m) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to add to the Clerk's understanding that traffic conditions at this junction, particularly on those Sunday mornings when car boot sales were held at Chester Rugby Club, were to be monitored by PC Baker and the police traffic liaison officer. 08/09 047

(n) Footway, Guilden Sutton Lane. Further to Cllr Roberts informing that although work had been carried out by the highway authority to improve drainage, the gully which had been installed was proud of the standing water, the Clerk reported the highway authority had confirmed the gully had been installed at the lowest point.

(o) Road signs. Members would advise the Clerk if they became aware of any road signs in and around the village which were obscured by vegetation. The particular concerns raised by Mrs Y Kirk as to a sign in Belle Vue Lane had been reported.

(p) Migration of gravel. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(q) Porters Hill. The issue raised by Cllr Hughes as to poor visibility encountered by motorists driving up the hill and a suggestion that traffic signals might improve safety had been referred to the highway authority as had the effect of trees overhanging the road. Cllr Kerfoot believe there was a case for action being taken to reduce the trees and to install white lines, "SLOW" markings and warning signs.

(r) Path, Cinder Lane to Church Lane. The condition of this path had been raised with the highway authority.

(s) Emerging traffic, Wilding Business Estate. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(t) HGVs. Concerns raised by Mrs Y Kirk, Spring Lodge, 11 Old Hall Park by correspondence dated 30 June 2008 as to increasing numbers of HGVs using village roads, possibly as a result of SatNavs, had been referred to the highway authority which had indicated a restriction to deal with this issue would be unlikely, overriding driver error being the main cause. .

(u) Station Lane. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice from the highway authority, by letter dated 21 August, 2008, that it was intended to close Station Lane for a period of three weeks on or after 22 September 2008 to enable carriageway drainage and associated works to be carried out. County Cllr E Johnson reported further. **Response due 12 September 2008.**

(iii) Lighting. It was noted that some lights on Guilden Sutton Lane continued to be obstructed by trees and that this had been reported to the highway authority. A faulty light would be reported at the rear of the Village Hall.

#### 8 Finance:

##### Income:

##### Co-op Bank

Interest (6 May)	£	14.16 (not previously reported)
Interest (4 July)	£	13.50

VAT repayment 2008/08 (plus CCTV in 2008/09)	£	1,215.49
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##### Chester City Council

Churchyard grant	£	250.00
Lengthsman 2006/07	£	603.20
Lengthsman 2007/08	£	624.00

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Groundwork  
Car park improvement  
grant £ 250.00

(ii) Payments:

Mrs M Kerfoot  
Gardens Day £ 479.79\*

Gresty  
Grounds maintenance/  
Lengthsman £ 309.00

S&H Services  
Shelter cleaning £ 14.00

Clerk:

Expenses:  
Postage £ 3.76  
Photocopies  
328@ 5p £ 16.40  
Mileage  
8@40p £ 3.20  
£ 23.36

\* approval of previously authorised payment

Proposed by Cllr Hughes  
Seconded by Cllr Paterson  
and agreed.

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank  
1 Aug 2008 £12,642.27

Scottish Widows no 1  
1 July 2008 £20,349.25

Scottish Widows no 2  
12 June 2008 £ 2,545.69

(iv) Report on contingency payments.

Budget: £ 1,305.00  
Payments: £ NIL

(v) Insurance. (a) Fidelity. The application form obtained from the insurers with respect to the proposed increase in the fidelity limit remained to be completed. (b) Further consideration would be given to a number of individual elements within the insurance initially by Cllr Hughes and the Clerk. The same would apply to possible alternative providers. **Action: Cllr Hughes, The Clerk.**

(vi) Transfer to Clerk's gratuity account. The transfer in respect of 2008/09 would be advised by Cllr Hughes. **Action: Cllr Hughes.**

(vii) Clerk's salary. Cllr Hughes was providing an appropriate minute with respect to the Clerk's terms and conditions from 1 April 2007.

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(viii) External Audit. The Clerk reported he had dealt with a query from the Audit Commission as to the reconciliation between two boxes in the Annual Return which had been explained in the accompanying supporting notes. The Commission had helpfully advised that unpresented cheques should not be accounted for in the Annual Return.

#### 9 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. Cllr Roberts, Parish Recycling Champion, indicated there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. (a) Site meeting, Belle Vue Lane. Following the site meeting with he had attended with City Cllr S Parker and the relevant officer on Tuesday 11 March 2008 as to the condition of the accesses, the Clerk reported he was still awaiting advice from City Council officers as to seeking a quotation from an alternative contractor. **Action: The Clerk.** (b) White Tornado. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (c) Fly tipping. The Clerk was inquiring as to the outcome of the indication from Derek Bowker Esq, Project Co-ordinator, Project Rural Matters of the intention of the project to achieve positive action with respect to persistent flytipping in the rural area.

(iii) Dog fouling. (a) The dell. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to Cllr Paterson's request to be contacted by the Dog Warden with respect to continuing dog fouling in the vicinity of the dell. (b) Footpath 2. A response was awaited to the request to the Dog Warden for a bin to be provided on public footpath no 2.

(iv) Lengthsman. The Council noted the concerns expressed by Mrs Kirk as to the amount of litter in areas including Guilden Sutton Lane and the suggestion this should be dealt with by the village lengthsman as was the case in Littleton and Mickle Trafford. The issue would be revisited.

(v) Sewers. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

#### 10 Trees and hedges.

(i) Access to public footpath no 2 from Oaklands. A response was awaited from the senior estates surveyor to determine the extent of the City Council's ownership of the access to footpath 2 at the rear of Porters Croft.

(ii) Hedges, Guilden Sutton Lane. A Member confirmed that hedges outside two adjoining properties continued to obstruct the footway. This had been brought attention of the highway authority.

(iii) Canopy, Porters Hill. The issue raised by Mr Jackson had been referred to the highway authority.

(iv) Hedges, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the concern expressed by a Member that overgrown hedges on Porters Hill were at head height.

(v) Shrubbery, Heath Bank. The suggestion that the shrubbery at the junction of Heath Bank and Guilden Sutton Lane should be pruned had been referred to the highway authority.

(vi) Branch, the dell. The Clerk reported he had informed the Tree Officer of a substantial branch which had fallen from a tree in the dell.

#### 11 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. It was noted that Mrs Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, would attend the next Area Meeting to be held on 15 October 2008.

(ii) Annual meeting. (a) Motions. It was noted that any motions to the annual meeting of the Association, to be held on Thursday 23 October 2008 in Middlewich Civic Hall, had been due by 31 August, 2008. (b) Attendance. It was noted that representatives wishing to attend the annual meeting were required to indicate by **Friday 5 September, 2008.**

(iii) Cheshire West and Chester Council, consultation on Area Programme Boards. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 21 August, 2008, of advice from the Association of a facilitated session on the consultation being carried out by the shadow authority on neighbourhood working which would take place on Tuesday 16 September 2008 from 1.30pm to 4.30pm at the Fourways Inn, Chester Road, Delamere. It was noted that attendance was restricted to the Clerk and Chairman or two alternative representatives. Those wishing to attend would advise the Clerk by **Friday 12 September, 2008.**

12 Chester City Council (i) Goway North Area Committee. The Clerk informed that a meeting of the Goway North Area Committee was to be held on Thursday 4 September 2008 at Mollington Village Hall, Station Road, Mollington at 7pm preceded by a drop in session from 6.30pm. He further reported that a consultation by the Cheshire West and Chester Council on neighbourhood and area working would take place from 5pm to 6.30pm. (ii) John Boughton Award. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice as to nominations for the 2008 John Boughton Award. It was noted the closing date was **noon on Friday 26 September, 2008.**

13 Cheshire County Council.

(i) Chairman's Garden Party for Local Councils. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice, by letter dated 17 July 2008, of an invitation for the Council to attend a Chairman's Garden Party for Local Councils at Tatton Park on Tuesday 30 September 2008 to celebrate the County Council's long-standing and successful partnership with Cheshire's local councils and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils which had been built up over many years. Those attending would advise the Clerk by **Friday 19 September, 2008.**

14 Cheshire West and Chester Council. (a) Consultation, Area and Neighbourhood Working. The Chairman reported that accompanied by the Clerk he had attended an event held on Wednesday 13 August 2008 at the Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton. This had been inconclusive. The Clerk had circulated copies of the consultation document. It was noted that comments were due by **Tuesday 30 September 2008.** (b) Appointment of Chief Executive. The Clerk informed that Mr Steve Robinson, chief executive of Stoke City Council, had been appointed as chief executive of the Cheshire West and Chester Council.

15 Cheshire Community Action. There were no action items to report.

16 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

17 Health. There were no action items to report.

18 Policing.

(i) Chester Have Your Say. It was noted that future meetings would take place on Tuesday 14 October at the Barbour Institute, Tattenhall and on Tuesday 13 January 2009 at St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, Chester all at 7pm.

(ii) Police/Probation initiative. A response was awaited from the Project Rural Matters Co-ordinator as to whether the scheme involving the Police and the Probation Service under which very low-level offenders, supervised by a police community support officer, could carry out work to benefit the community, encompassed environmental improvements.

(iii) Crime issues. A Member referred to continuing incidents of antisocial behaviour in an area of the village.

(iv) Ward walk. The Clerk informed he had been advised by PC Baker that PC Baker was intending to undertake a ward walk at 9.30am on Sunday 14 September, 2008. Members indicated they would prefer a ward walk at 7pm on a Friday evening.

19 Newsletter. The Clerk reported that an issue of the newsletter had been prepared and would appear prior to the proposed drop in on public transport.

20 Memorial garden. The application form for the proposed work to the Sycamore had been forwarded to Cllr Brown as Parish Tree Warden. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

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21 Bulb planting. The Clerk confirmed that 4 no sacks of mixed daffodils had been ordered. It was agreed these would be planted on Footpath 7 at a community event provisionally fixed for Sunday 19 October 2008 at 2pm.

22 Parish IT. The Chairman reported, as village webmaster, that he had received a large quantity of historic material from former resident Mrs Suzanne Edwards.

23 Primary School. (i) Tree Planting. Mr Jackson and Mr Wale had been approached to ascertain if they had other suitable alternative sites in mind for the saplings planted in the school field adjoining their properties but had indicated they were content with the outcome of a site meeting at the school which had agreed that the saplings would be relocated elsewhere in the field. The school would be informed an appropriate article for inclusion in the Parish Council newsletter would be welcomed.

24 Planning post cards. A supply of cards had now been made available by the printer.

25 Disability Discrimination Act: barrier, Hill Top Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

26 Land ownerships. Further consideration would be given to the suggestion by Cllr Paterson that it would be beneficial for the Council to compile a register of land ownerships which adjoined footways and public footpaths.

27 Railway fencing, Guilden Sutton Lane. Further to the concerns of an occupier who had been informed by Network Rail that security fencing would be erected on the boundary of her garden and the railway embankment, the Clerk reported he had been informed by Network Rail that if a decision was taken to renew fencing in the area, this would involve timber panels on concrete posts.

28 Gas markers, Belle Vue Lane. The Council noted advice from Mrs Y Kirk that the redundant gas markers on Belle Vue Lane, which she had previously complained of, had now been removed.

29 Members information items.

Mr Arthur Willis. The Council heard with regret that Mr Arthur Willis was now in a nursing home. Mr Willis had farmed at Meadow Lea Farm, Mickle Trafford for many years and had later moved to a property on School Lane overlooking his former farmland.

Mr Jim Graham. The Clerk regretted to inform the Council that Mr Jim Graham, who now farmed at Meadow Lea and with whom the Council had established cordial relations during the case for the redesignation of footpath 7 as a restricted byway, had died recently.

Footway, Guilden Sutton Lane. A suggestion was made by Cllr Moulton that a narrow section of footway on Guilden Sutton Lane at the approach to the properties from the A41 should be widened.

Former Councillor Mrs Pat Astbury. Cllr Roberts informed that Mrs Astbury, local bus user contact, formerly of Heath Bank, had now left the parish.

Graffiti, Summerfield Road. A Member referred to obscured graffiti on the gable end of the Summerfield Road shops facing the Village Hall car park which he believed to be obscene. He asked if this might be referred to the Graffiti Busters.

Mr Daniel Palmer. The Chairman referred to an expression of interest in the work of the Parish Council by Mr Daniel Palmer, aged 14. This was welcomed and would be progressed by Cllr Roberts.

Planting, Summerfield Road. The Chairman expressed the view that similar planting outside the remaining premises would be welcome but was informed this was not desired by the businesses.

30 Information correspondence.

Strategic planning: North West Plan partial review, comments on options.

Chester City Council: Forward Planning update Summer 2008, Adoption of supplementary planning document on sustainable development.

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association: The Playing Field Summer 2008

Policing: Grapevine Chester July 2008

**Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.**

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed that the public and press should be excluded for consideration of the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information.

31 Obstruction of the highway. The issue had been drawn to the attention of the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.**

32 Clerk's salary. Following the outcome of the review of the Clerk's salary with effect from 1 April 2007 together with a revised spinal point, a formal minute was being prepared and would be appended to the minutes. **Action: Cllr Hughes.**

33 Children's Playing Field. The Clerk informed he had received an approach on behalf of the landowner with respect to the condition of the playing surface and roadside hedge and the replacement of the existing goal posts. An appropriate response would be made.