

Parish Council Minutes

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 10 November 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.

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. Apologies were received from City Cllr B J Bailey, City Cllr S Parker, County Cllr E Johnson and PC M Baker.

(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 interest in the item relating to the notice of an appeal at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 October 2008 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 October 2008 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall were proposed by Cllr I Brown, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed.

(iv) Dates of future meetings:

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.

2 Public Speaking Time.

Mr I Girling, 3 Old Hall Park, thanked the Council for the improvement scheme which had been carried out to the trees in the parish car park and referred to the completion of the scheme. Mr Girling further sought advice as to the requirement for the Council to advertise its meetings. Mr Girling was subsequently informed there was a requirement for the Council to formally post a notice in a prominent position within the parish three clear days before the meeting for which the noticeboard at Summerfield Road was used. Dates of future meetings also appeared in the newsletter which was circulated to every house in the village and on the website. The notice which had been placed on the Church Lane noticeboard in respect of this meeting was believed this had been carried away by the weather.

3 Planning.

(i) New applications:

Householder issues:

08/01644/FUL amendments to 07/00366/FUL and additional single storey extension at Brackendale, Church Lane for Mr and Mrs Jessop. 08/09 066

Further inquiries had been made by Cllr D Hughes and Cllr J Hughes. No objection had been raised. This was agreed.

(ii) Decision notices.

08/01506/LDC use of land as residential curtilage at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane for Mr M and Miss A Jones. Granted. The Clerk referred to the procedure relating to such certificates and informed this did not involve consultation with the parish council.

08/01644/FUL amendments to 07/00366/FUL additional single storey extension at Brackendale, Church Lane for Mr and Mrs Jessop. Planning permission.

(iii) Planning appeal.

08/00713/FUL steel framed portal building at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL. The Clerk reported the receipt of notification of this appeal for which a response was due by 18 November 2008. It was noted that no further representations were required as the Council had not objected to the application.

(iv) Development control. The Clerk reported he had obtained guidance as to the new rules covering permitted development, which had been introduced by the Government on 1 October 2008, through the good offices of Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council which he would circulate. Advice was also available on the Planning Portal. He would arrange for a suitable note to appear in the newsletter. The Clerk reiterated the guidance did not apply to existing properties where permitted development rights had been removed.

(v) Parish Plan: progress report. Cllr Paterson reported further on the assessment being made of the questionnaires which had been returned. She proposed there should be a preliminary presentation of the findings to the December meeting of the Council ahead of any feedback meeting for the public. **Action: Cllr Paterson.**

(vi) Strategic planning. There were no issues to report.

4 Quality Council issues. (a) CiLCA qualification. The Clerk would advise the Council in due course of his progress towards completing the qualification. (b) Training: general. It had not been possible for Members to attend any of the remaining courses in 2008. The Clerk reported that details of courses to be organised by the Cheshire Training Partnership during 2009 were expected shortly. These would be circulated. (c) Conduct of Council business. The Chairman reported that at his suggestion, public speaking time had been brought into the main body of the agenda in line with the practice adopted by Chester City Council and the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council. It is noted the Council had adopted model standing orders many years ago and that in any event up to date standing orders specifically applicable to Guilden Sutton Parish Council were required to be included in the portfolio for the Clerk's qualification. He suggested a small group should be established to consider revised standing orders based on the current national model. It was agreed this would comprise the existing Quality Council group of Cllrs Fisher, Derek Hughes and Brown. **Action: Clerk to obtain copies of the current national model for each Member of the Council.**

5 Parish car park.

(i) Grounds maintenance. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the need for the boundary planting and the condition of the hard surfacing to be returned to specification as discussed at a meeting with

the grounds maintenance contractor. This would be pursued on the completion of the improvement scheme.

(ii) Improvement scheme. (a) Contract work. The Clerk reported the tree surgeons had completed their work on the final scheme which had included the removal of all the Sycamores whilst preserving the green aspect. The Clerk informed that in addition to the helpful comments raised by Mr Girling in public speaking time as to further work which might be carried out, similar views had been put forward by Mrs Y Kirk. Occupiers had complimented the contractors on the improvement which had been achieved. 08/09 067

The removal of the front sycamore adjoining 1 Old Hall Park, which had been considered by Members as a possibility, had been an addition which he had authorised within a 10% variation of the agreed contract price. The landscaping contractor had planted shrubs along the front boundary and was to complete the work using chippings supplied by the tree surgeons which would reduce the cost of that element of the work. Members would visit to consider whether further work should be carried out to the stumps and to remove ground growth at the rear of the bank. The Clerk informed he had sought advice from the City Council's tree officer as to the preferred action which should be taken in respect of the stumps which was awaited. (b) Rear boundary wall. The Chairman reported that two sandstones had been found by the contractor to be loose and had been dislodged, damaging flagstones beneath. He also believed other stones in the wall required work. It was agreed that estimates should be sought for repairs to the wall and flagstones. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iii) Repairs to signage. The Clerk was endeavouring to obtain estimates, including a quotation for the replacement of the entire sign which, on inspection, was in need of refurbishment.

6 Leisure Services.

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. Cllr D Hughes reported the goalmouths were in a satisfactory state and no repairs were necessary over the winter.

(b) Mole infestation. There was no requirement for a further report at this stage.

(c) State of nets. It was noted some wear and tear had occurred to a number of the ties.

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

(e) Goal posts. The Clerk was pleased to inform the landowner had been consulted on the Council's view the present goalposts should be retained and had agreed this course of action.

(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. Cllr Paterson reminded the Council of the need to complete inspection forms. It was further agreed after discussion that records should include an accident book. Members visited the requirement for there to be a contact telephone number available to the public. The Clerk indicated he had already raised the issue that the Chester City Council call centre and in future the Cheshire West and Chester Council might provide this service.

(c) Litter bin emptying. There was no requirement for a further report at this stage.

(d) Grounds maintenance issues. There was no requirement for a further report at this stage.

(e) Cleansing of equipment. There was no requirement for a further report at this stage.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Footpath 7. The Parish Paths Warden expressed concern at the apparent use of the route by a motorised vehicle as evidenced by the appearance of wheel tracks. This would be reported by the warden to the Maintenance Officer. The Warden referred to drainage conditions which would also be raised with the Maintenance Officer. He noted that a number of adjoining Oaks appeared to be dying back and these would be inspected by Cllr I Brown as Parish Tree Warden. **Action: Cllr Brown.** The Warden further informed that the long awaited extension of the Millennium Cycleway to Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford was underway. The Council expressed disappointment that as it had been the original promoter of this scheme, it had not been informed by those responsible for the project. Further inquiries would be made by the Clerk. 08/09 068

(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 had raised the issue with the City Council's Director of Environment in the hope the matter would be resolved prior to the annual parish partnership reception. No action had been taken and he and the Chairman had been disappointed that no representatives of the Council's environment services had been present at the partnership evening. As a result, as earlier advised by Cllr S Parker, he had raised the issue directly with the portfolio holder and was awaiting a response. The Parish Paths Warden reported the receipt of a further strong complaint as to the condition of this path and the Clerk assured the Warden this had been included in his recent representations referred to above. (ii) Sign, Church Lane. The Clerk reported this signpost, at the junction of Church Lane and Footpath 2, appeared to have been relocated to a convenient position in the garden of an adjoining property. (iii) Maintenance. With respect to his representations to the Highways and Transportation Local Joint Committee concerning 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, the Clerk reported that in conjunction with his approach to the City Council portfolio holder, he had also raised the issue with the Area Highways Manager. (iv) Steps. It was noted the surface of the steps was already suffering from detritus.

(c) Footpath 1. The Parish Paths Warden reported this route had been subject to action by the Public Rights of Way Unit. He expressed concern about the volume of rubbish in adjoining ditches and was advised by the Chairman and the Clerk that regrettably it was not now the general practice of local authorities to clear dumping on private land. It was agreed that in the first instance the Parish Paths Warden would make a speculative report to the City Council call centre

(d) Parish Paths Group. There was no requirement for a further report at this stage.

(e) Mid Cheshire Footpath Society. There was no correspondence to report to this meeting.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance.

(a) Vale. The Chairman expressed concern at the amount of growth in the grass at the Fox Cover amenity area. He reported he had raised this with the City Council Director of Environment but had not received any response.

(b) Parish Council contract 2008/09. There was no requirement for a further report at this stage.

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

(vi) Landscaping, Fox Cover. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

(viii) Cheshire Year of Gardens. Appropriate publicity would be sought on completion of the parish car park project.

(ix) Guilden Sutton Community Association: proposed fencing. The Clerk reported that a detailed justification

had been provided by the Association to the satisfaction of the Chairman and Cllr Jane Hughes. Comfort had been provided in the placing of the order. The Council was informed this had been confirmed.

7 Public transport.

(i) C35 service. Cllr Roberts, as the representative of the Chester Area of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, reported he had attended a meeting of the Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee held on 16 October 2008 and had raised the issue of an additional service from the village to reduce the interval between the 0815 and 1015 services. The County Council had indicated there were no resources available to fund such an additional service. It was hoped there would be a more positive response from the Cheshire West and Chester Council. The Clerk reported he had approached the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation, County Cllr E Moore Dutton and County Cllr Eleanor Johnson (Gow) as to their support for improved services to the village which had been forthcoming.

08/09 069

(i) Public meeting. Cllr Roberts, as Local Bus User Contact, reported he was preparing an article for the newsletter on the outcome of the drop in which had been held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16 September. County Cllr E Moore Dutton, Executive Member for Highways and Transportation and County Cllr E Johnson had been thanked for their attendance. Cllr Kerfoot referred to the taxi service operated by Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council and it was agreed the Clerk would seek further details. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iii) Bus stand, Guilden Sutton Lane. It was noted that no action had been taken at this stage.

8 Highways.

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

(ii) Local matters.

The Clerk reminded Members that individual action items which had been raised with the highway authority had been fully detailed in the minutes of the October meeting. A site meeting was being pursued.

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device. The statistics from the most recent use of the equipment had been obtained from the City Council and circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Hughes had informed Members that the speed of nearly 400 vehicles had been recorded over a 5 day period. More than half which went past the equipment exceeded the 30 mph limit and nearly two thirds were over the speed limit. Nearly 50 vehicles went through at over 40 mph, representing one in eight of all traffic passing the SID equipment. Three vehicles exceeded 50mph. Cllr Hughes had pointed out the fact this traffic was travelling through a narrow village past a children's playground and near to a school was why the Council needed, in his view, to try to reduce the speed of the traffic through the village. (ii) Police radar. A response was awaited to the renewed approach 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. The Clerk suggested, however, this might be replaced by the intention of the Rural Inspector to deploy a Police SID. The Clerk was to pursue the suggestion by Cllr Kerfoot that a note on the use of the SID equipment by the Parish Council should appear in the newsletter.

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

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Chairman referred to the suggestion the proposed 30mph limit, if implemented, would not include repeater signs and pointed to instances in Suffolk and Herefordshire where repeater signs were present where no street lights were installed. The requirement would be clarified by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

(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. The Clerk reported that no repairs appeared to have been carried out at this stage.

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

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

(i) Disabled access to shops. The issues identified at the meeting between the Clerk and the Access Officer on 19 December 2007 would be revisited. The Clerk reported the Area Maintenance Engineer had received a request for a further dropped kerb to improve access to the shops. Having inspected the area, he did not believe this was necessary or would achieve any benefit but had suggested to the Clerk at a site meeting that improvements should be carried out to the dropped kerb serving the Village Hall. 08/09 070
It was accepted this was not within the highway and the work had been agreed by the Guilden Sutton Community Association.

(j) 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.

(k) 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.

(l) Migration of gravel. There was nothing further to report at present.

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

(n) Path, Cinder Lane to Church Lane. (i) Condition. It was not known what action had been taken by the highway authority as to the condition of this path. (ii) Use by motor cycles. The Clerk reported the receipt of a complaint to the Parish Paths Warden as to the use of this path by motorcyclists. The possibility of improved barriers had been raised. The Clerk reported he had referred the issue to the Area Maintenance Engineer.

(o) Station Lane. It was not known what progress had been made with the intention 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.

(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. The Chairman commended the reporting system available on the Cheshire County council website.

9 Finance:

(a) Income:

Co-op Bank
Interest

5 September £ 13.50 (not previously reported)

3 October £ 12.13

Scottish Widows no 1

Interest 1 October £ 227.02

Scottish Widows no 2
Interest 1 October £ 30.02

(ii) Payments:

Direct2Door
newsletter distribution £ 27.03 (VAT £4.03)

D Astbury
(Red Squirrel Tree
Surgery)
Tree works £ 1,210.00 (10% variation for additional work)

08/09 071

Plemstall Services
Landscaping £ 690.00 TBC*

Clerk:

Expenses:

Postage
(Newsletter) £ 20.70
Photocopies
221 @ 5p £ 11.05
Mileage
8 @40p £ 3.20
£ 34.95

* Subject to a possible reduction to be advised.

Proposed by Cllr Hughes
Seconded by Cllr Paterson
and agreed.

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank
21 October 2008 £10,815.55

Scottish Widows no 1
1 October 2008 £20,576.27

Scottish Widows no 2
1 October £ 2,581.87

(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, including the Council's bankers which had recently made an approach. This

would enable the market to be tested.

(vi) External Audit. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 23 October 2008, of the certified annual return for 2007/08 from the Audit Commission. The auditor wished to draw to the attention of the Council the fact the Council was holding high balances which had increased since the previous year. The Council was asked to note that local councils were not allowed to accumulate excessive balances and that unless there was a specific capital project in hand, the balance should be reduced to a reasonable working level, either by levying a reduced precept in future or incurring expenditure. Helpful advice had also been confirmed that the value in box 8 of the statement of accounts should be the gross bank balance and should not take account of unrepresented cheques at the year end.

(vii) Budget 2009/10. The Clerk informed he would circulate preliminary papers including the financial position to 30 November 2008 and the anticipated out turn prior to the December meeting.

08/09 072

10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (i) General. Cllr Roberts, Parish Recycling Champion, indicated there was nothing further to report at present. (ii) Chester City Council waste collection and recycling contract. The Chairman referred to this new contract, to be introduced on 1 April 2009, which would involve householders receiving two new 240 litre wheelie bins with the present 140 litre brown wheelie bin being used for non recyclable waste. The Clerk reported the intention was to introduce the new system over a six week period commencing after the Easter bank holiday weekend. He would arrange for a suitable note to appear in the newsletter.

(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. The suggestion this activity should be resumed would be revisited. (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. (d) Autumn Fall. It was agreed the Clerk would approach Chester City Council as to the schedule for dealing with the autumn fall.

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

11 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. There was nothing further to report at present as to the need for a hedge at the approach to the diversion, which had vigorous growth and was obstructing the footway, to be pruned.

(iii) Canopy, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to report at present as to the issue raised by Mr Jackson which had been referred to the highway authority.

(iv) Hedges, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to report at present as to the concern expressed by a Member that overgrown hedges on Porters Hill were at head height. The Clerk confirmed this was the position. It was agreed this should be reported to the Area Maintenance Engineer. **Action: The Clerk.**

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. Mrs Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, had attended the Area Meeting held on 15 October 2008. It was noted the next Area Meeting would take place on Wednesday 7 January 2008.

(ii) Annual meeting. The annual meeting of the Association had taken place on Thursday 23 October 2008 in Middlewich Civic Hall. The Council regretted it had not been possible for a representative to attend.

13 Chester City Council (i) Goway North Area Committee. It was noted the next meeting would take place on Thursday 4 December 2008. (ii) The Chairman and Clerk had attended the annual Parish Partnership Reception which had taken place on 29 October 2008 in The Guildhall. The Chairman reported. (ii) Maintenance of churchyards and burial grounds. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence requesting an indication of the likely grant to be sought in 2009/10.

14 Cheshire County Council. There were no action items to report.

08/09 073

15 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(i) Funding for local councils. The Clerk reported he had become aware, at short notice, that although the shadow Cheshire West and Chester Council had confirmed funding for voluntary bodies at the same level in 2009/10 as in 2008/09, this did not apply to local councils. In conjunction with the Association, after raising the issue with the Leader of the shadow authority, he had arranged to address a meeting of the full shadow council which had taken place on the same evening as the association's annual meeting. The Clerk had sought a similar assurance on behalf of local councils in Cheshire West and Chester to that given to voluntary bodies which had been granted by the portfolio holder with the exception that in Chester District, it would be prudent for councils in framing their budgets to assume that double taxation grant would not be paid. The explanation was that the averaging down of the level of council tax throughout Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston and Vale Royal would result in greater savings to council tax payers than the income which would be lost as a result of the removal of the double taxation grant. Arrangements for future years beyond 2009/10 were to be the subject of a review and the Clerk was seeking a further assurance that the Association would be invited to participate.

(ii) Gambling Act 2005 statement of principles, statement of licensing policy. This was being considered by the Clerk. It was noted any response was due by 16 January 2009.

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

17 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

18 Health. There were no action items to report.

19 Policing.

(i) Chester Have Your Say. The Clerk reported the receipt of an agenda and the subsequent newsletter relating to the meeting which had taken place on Tuesday 14 October at the Barbour Institute, Tattenhall. Cllr Hughes reported further on the meeting. It was noted that a future meeting would take place on Tuesday 13 January 2009 at St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, Chester 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. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Ward walk. It was noted that Cllr Jane Hughes had attended the ward walk which had taken place at 7pm on Friday 19 September 2008. It was noted a further ward walk could take place at 10am on Sunday 16 November 2008.

(d) Policing priorities. The Clerk reported the receipt of this annual consultation, for which a response was due by 14 November 2008. **Action: The Chairman.**

20 Newsletter. The Clerk reported a further issue of the newsletter would be distributed before Christmas.

21 Memorial garden. The application form for the proposed work to the Sycamore was being completed by Cllr Brown as Parish Tree Warden.

22 Bulb planting. It was noted the bulb planting which had taken place on Footpath 7 as a community event on Sunday 19 October 2008 at 2pm had been reported with a photograph in the Midweek Chronicle. It was agreed the remaining bulbs would be planted at the Fox Cover steps and in the bank of the parish car park if this was possible.

23 Parish IT. Cllr Fisher, as village web master, said he very much welcomed the further involvement of Mr Brian Lewin in managing the site. 08/09 074

The Council expressed its appreciation to Mr Lewin for his support.

24 Primary School. (i) Tree Planting. There was nothing further to report at this stage (ii) Boundary, rear of Orchard Croft. It was noted the intended work to prune overhanging branches had been carried out although overgrowth on the surface of the footway remained. (iii) 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, Cllr Hughes and the Clerk had attended a meeting of the group held on Tuesday 4 November 2008 at 8am. (iv) Recognition. Cllr Hughes reported the school had been recognised for the comprehensive services provided including an after school club.

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. There was nothing further to report at this stage as 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.

28 Department for Communities and Local Government..

(a) The making and enforcement of bylaws, consultation. The Clerk reported he was considering this document and would consult the Chairman and Vice Chairman on any response which was due by Thursday 20 November 2008.

(b) Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees. The Clerk reported the receipt of this consultation which he was considering and would consult the Chairman and Vice Chairman on any response which was due by Thursday 24 December 2008.

29 Remembrance Sunday. The annual Remembrance Day Service had taken place on Sunday 9 November 2008. Messrs Gresty would be thanked for their kind offer to tidy the memorial in advance of the service which had been gratefully accepted. PC Baker, who had been unable to be present, would be thanked for arranging the attendance of two officers. It was noted there have been a very good turnout with virtually standing room only in the chapel.

30 Members information items.

Disabled parking, Village Hall. The Chairman reported he had been approached as to disabled parking

provision at the Village Hall. The complainant had been advised to contact Guilden Sutton Community Association.

Parish boundary sign, Guilden Sutton Lane. Cllr Brown referred to the state of this sign which would be referred to the Area Maintenance Engineer.

Village Fete. Cllr Hughes informed there was a proposal in its early stages to hold a village fete in 2009 and enquired if the Council would wish to become involved. It was agreed this would be visited at the December meeting.

31 Information correspondence.

Cheshire Year of Gardens 2008: finale 12 December 2008; community celebratory event 4 February 2009.

Chester City Council: Past Uncovered October 2008.

Cheshire County Council: Cheshire Matters October 2008.

08/09 075

CPRE: Stop The Drop litter and fly tipping campaign toolkit,

Clerks and Councils Direct November 2008.

Application – community project manager,

Hope House request for donation.

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.

32 Clerk's terms and conditions. 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. The transfer to the Clerk's gratuity account in respect of 2008/09 would be advised by Cllr Hughes. It was agreed the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk would meet to progress these issues.

332 Lengthsman. The Council visited the scope of the present lengthsman service, compared with adjoining parishes, taking account of the financial considerations.

gspc 101108

08/09 076