

Parish Council Minutes

Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 2 November 2009 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr D Hughes.

Present: Cllrs I Brown, D M Fisher, D Hughes, J Hughes, M Kerfoot, P M Paterson.

In attendance: B Lewin Esq, Rights of Way Warden, Cllr B J Bailey, Cllr S Parker, (Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council), J Dale Esq, A Davis Esq.

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. An apology was received from Cllr W Moulton. It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Jane Hughes and agreed that this should be accepted.

An apology was received from PC M Baker.

Clls D Hughes and M Kerfoot regretted that they would have to tender apologies for the December meeting.

(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 P M Paterson had declared a personal interest in planning application 09/11563/FUL, erection of 2.2m high boundary wall at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane, CH3 7EJ for Mr and Ms Mark and Audrey Jones as a member of the committee for the 2010 fete.

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 09/11515/FUL, single storey extension at front and first floor extensions at side and rear of 52 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Tanner as a neighbour and friend of the applicant.

Cllr I Brown declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 09/11515/FUL, single storey extension at front and first floor extensions at side and rear of 52 Oaklands CH3 7HE Mr Tanner as a friend of the applicant.

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 09/11515/FUL, single storey extension at front and first floor extensions at side and rear of 52 Oaklands CH3 7HE Mr Tanner as a near neighbour.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 5 October, 2009. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 5 October 2009 were proposed by Cllr P M Paterson, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed as a correct record subject to minute 6 (ii) b concluding **Action: All Members**.

(iv) Dates of future meetings:

Monday 7 December 2009, Mondays 4 January, 1 February, 1 March, 12 April, 10 May, 7

June, 12 July,
6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December 2010.

(v) Publication scheme: Training. Further to the Clerk having reviewed the training DVD prepared by the Information Commissioner on the application of the scheme, this had been referred to the Chairman. **Action: The Chairman.**

(vi) Code of Conduct. In response to a query from Cllr D M Fisher, the Clerk confirmed he would prepare and circulate a note of the main points made by the Monitoring Officer in due course. 09/10 070

(vii) Vacancy vice Cllr M S J Roberts. The Clerk reported the vacancy notice had been obtained and had been displayed on 1 October, 2009. He understood no poll had been claimed. The vacancy had also been publicised in the newsletter and on the web site. He further reported the receipt of written applications from Mr Jim Dale, Post Office Cottage, Guilden Sutton Lane and from Mr Alan Davis, 34 School Lane. Both had been circulated to all Members. The Clerk had indicated to both applicants they were free to use public speaking time in support of their applications should they wish. Mr Dale and Mr Davis being present were invited to leave the room. Following a discussion, Members voted by secret ballot as a result of which Mr Davis was co-opted to the Council on a 4-2 vote. Mr Davis signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Mr Dale was thanked by the Chairman for his interest.

(viii) Additional powers for Parish and Town Councils. This issue was being raised with Mrs Christine Russell MP by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

(ix) Appointment of a local bus user contact vice former Cllr M S J Roberts. The appointment of Cllr W Moulton as local bus user contact would be publicised in the newsletter.

(x) UK Youth Parliament. The Clerk reported the Council had been approached by Connexions in connection with the nomination of a suitable young person within the parish to the UK Youth Parliament. Connexions had referred to the interest in public affairs of Mr Daniel Palmer and the Clerk had intimated that Mr Palmer, who had attended meetings of the Parish Council, would have been the Council's nomination. This was agreed. It was further agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Palmer and encourage him to keep in touch with the Council on village matters or other issues he felt he may wish to raise.

2 Public Speaking Time.

The Clerk confirmed that Summerfield House was being informed of the availability of public speaking time should any residents wish to raise issues.

Borough Cllr Stuart Parker referred to the Community Forum, the introduction of rural improvement grants across the borough for which application forms would be available and the £5,000 personal budgets available to each ward member which would be restricted to smaller applications. It was hoped the scheme would be available early in the New Year.

3 Planning:

(i) New applications.

09/11228/FUL demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey side extension at 10 Heath Bank CH3 7EZ for Mr and Mrs Alan Hewitt. No objection had been raised.

09/011319/FUL demolition of garage with two storey side and single storey rear extensions with porch to front at 36 School Lane CH3 7ET for Miss Alice De-Prudnik-Hay. No objection had been raised.

Cllr Fisher in the Chair.

09/11515/FUL single storey extension at front and first floor extensions at side and rear of 52 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Tanner. It was agreed that further enquiries should be made by Cllrs Fisher and Davis.

Cllr Hughes in the Chair.

09/11563/FUL erection of 2.2m high boundary wall at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane, CH3 7EJ for Mr and Ms Mark and Audrey Jones. It was agreed that further inquiries would be made by Cllr D Hughes and Cllr J Hughes.

(ii) Decision notices.

09/11228/FUL demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey side extension at 10 Heath Bank CH3 7EZ for Mr and Mrs Alan Hewitt. Planning permission.

09/11319/FUL demolition of existing garage, two storey side extension and single storey front extension for Miss Alice De-Prudnik-Hay, 36 School Lane CH3 7ET. Planning permission.

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(iii) Parish Plan: progress report. Cllr Paterson reported further as to the arrangements for the launch.

(iv) Village Design Statement. Members agreed the issue of a village design statement should be retained on the agenda. Borough Cllr B J Bailey indicated he would be happy to be involved in the parish plan and in any village design statement which may be prepared.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council Local Development Framework core strategy topic papers. The Clerk was indicating the Council was keen to continue to be consulted and had concerns about the protection of the particularly fragile Green Belt within the parish, the amount of development to be allowed in villages washed over by the Green Belt, the retention and further development of rural public transport services, the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers and highway maintenance. He further reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 26 October, 2009 of consultation by the borough council on the new local transport plan, core strategy issues and options and on a draft sustainable community strategy. Responses were required by 30 January, 2010. It was agreed that interested parties such as former councillor R M Armitage and Mrs Y Kirk would be advised when consultations were received to which responses by members of the public were invited. **Action: The Clerk.**

(b) Consultation on submitted draft North West Plan Partial Review (including non technical sustainability appraisal report). The Clerk regretted he had been unable to prepare a response by the due date (19 October, 2009) but would pursue other options for making a representation. **Action: The Clerk.**

4 Quality Council issues.

(i) CiLCA qualification. The Clerk reported further on progress relating to the compilation of the portfolio. The aim remained to achieve qualification by March 2010 ahead of the next parish council elections in May 2011.

(ii) Training: general. The Clerk would circulate details of the Power to Promote Well Being. He reminded the Council he was to attend an Audit and Finance update session to be held on Wednesday 25 November, 2009 in Middlewich. It was agreed that training dates for 2010 when available from the County Office would be circulated.

(iii) Moving Towards Quality Parish Council Status. (a) Conduct of Council business. The NALC model standing orders would be considered by the small group which had been established comprising the existing Quality Council group of Cllrs Fisher, D Hughes and Brown. (b) Status. A meeting would be arranged in due course to enable the group to consider the requirements which would have to be met by the Council if it was to achieve Quality Parish Council status to which it was committed in principle. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

5 Parish car park.

(i) Grounds maintenance. Performance against specification by the contractor, including the need for the grass to be cut on a regular basis and for weeds to be removed from the hard surface would continue to be closely monitored.

(ii) Improvement scheme. (a) removal of overgrowth. Messrs Gresty had been informed of the intention that the treated overgrowth and debris at the rear of the bank should be removed in order to allow the mass planting of bulbs and of some shrubs. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 9 October, 2009 of an estimate from Messrs Gresty in the sum of £119 to remove debris from the cleared area on the car park bank, including concrete and tree branches, to include the hire of a mini skip. It was proposed by Cllr Kerfoot, seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed that the estimate would be accepted. (b) Boundary treatment. The Clerk was making a renewed approach to a contractor to seek quotations for the removal of the planting and mulch on the sides and rear of the car park and their replacement with concrete topped by setts.

(iii) Rear boundary wall. The Clerk had kindly been provided with details of an alternative contractor by a nearby occupier who had had a boundary wall constructed recently and would report further in due course.

(iv) Replacement noticeboard. The Clerk would inquire as to the possibility of a grant being available from the personal budgets of the three ward councillors.

6 Leisure Services

(i) Children's Playing Field:
09/10 072

- (a) Grounds maintenance issues. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
 - (b) Mole infestation. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
 - (c) State of nets. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
 - (d) Basket ball equipment. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
- (ii) Children's Play Area.
- (a) CCTV and CCTV protocol. The CCTV protocol would be revisited in due course.
 - (b) Inspections. Members and the Clerk provided Cllr Paterson with reports of inspections. Messrs Gresty had confirmed they had dealt with brambles encroaching onto the hard surface by hand.
 - (c) Litter bin emptying. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
 - (d) Grounds maintenance issues. The contract requirement for detritus to be removed from the hard surfacing rather than blown into the hedge bottom would continue to be brought to the attention of Messrs Gresty. Further to Cllr Fisher informing at the previous meeting that the height of the boundary hedge was higher than desirable, Messrs Gresty had been requested to provide separate estimates to reduce both sides of the hedge to the height of the boundary fencing. These had been received. The work would be carried out with chainsaws and the arisings would be shredded. After noting the estimates, the Council agreed alternative estimates should be sought. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - (e) Replacement of safety surfacing. The likelihood of grants being available was being pursued by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**
- (iii) Public Footpaths.
- (a) Footpath 7. Further to the previous report by the Rights of Way Warden as to the effect of climate change on the Oaks which adjoined the route and to it being agreed the Warden should approach the Public Rights of Way maintenance officer for advice, a similar approach had been made by the Clerk to the Borough Council's tree officer who had indicated he would expect to be consulted by the Public Rights of Way Unit should this be necessary.
 - (b) Footpath 2. (i) Clearance and sweeping. There was nothing further to report at this stage. Following an intervention by Cllr Bailey, it was agreed the Clerk would inform Cllr Bailey of footpath issues which had been raised with the borough council. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - (c) Footpath 1. It was agreed at the suggestion of Cllr Fisher that the condition of this path beyond Belle Vue cottage should be referred to the Rights of Way Warden. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - (d) Parish Paths Group. Cllr D Hughes informed he had replaced the faded parish paths map in the Summerfield Road notice board.
 - (e) Mid Cheshire Footpath Society. There was no action correspondence to report to this meeting.
 - (f) Greenway.
 - (i) Opening. The Warden referred to the opening of the extension of the Greenway to Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford and believed this was a matter of some congratulation for Sustrans. Borough Cllr S Parker referred to concerns as to the openness of the exit onto Station Lane and said that as a result of a site meeting, a gate was to be provided. The Clerk contrasted this welcome measure with the approach of the Public Rights of Way Unit at the public inquiry into the status of footpath 7 at which it had been argued that road safety and the

speed of traffic on Station Lane was not an issue which could be taken into account. Members believed there should be signs to the Greenway from Guilden Sutton Lane and at the junction with footpath 7. The Clerk informed he had inquired as to the possibility of leaflets with a map of the route being provided locally.

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(ii) Correspondence per Mr Paul Gresty re construction of cycleway. Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt, by correspondence dated 14 August 2009, of correspondence from Mr Paul Gresty, The Wood Farm, School Lane as to the effect on conservation and wildlife of work carried out by the contractor in extending the cycleway from Hoole to Mickle Trafford and Guilden Sutton, the Clerk informed a response had been made by the appropriate officer who had indicated that experienced professionals and ecological specialists had been involved.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. (a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Parish Council contract 2009/10. Performance against of specification by the contractor would continue to be closely monitored.

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

(vi) Landscaping, Fox Cover. The Clerk reported that on further consideration and a site inspection, former Cllr Armitage had indicated he would be more than happy to prune the shrubs in the area concerned. It was agreed the arisings could be disposed of on site.

(vii) Provision for youth. Further to the suggestion that the Parish Council might seek to engage with the School Council, the Chairman indicated he had spoken to the Headteacher.

(viii) Cheshire Local Access Forum, applications for membership. The Clerk reported that further to the receipt, by correspondence dated 12 August 2009, of information relating to applications for membership of the Cheshire Local Access Forum, the Rights of Way Warden, to whom the correspondence had been referred, did not intend to make an application.

(ix) Multi use games area. Further to Cllr Kerfoot referring to the possible provision of a floodlit multi use games area being provided at the primary school at a cost of £20,000, it was noted that any support from the Parish Council should be fed in as part of the budget process.

Action: Cllr Kerfoot.

7 Public transport.

(i) Revised services. The Clerk had included a copy of the revised timetable in the newsletter. The information had also been displayed on the web site.

(ii) C80 town centre departure – Mrs Y Kirk. The confusion referred to by Mrs Kirk as to the departure stand for the service C80 in the city centre had been referred to the Borough Council. Officers had helpfully indicated that if there were concerns, these are could be reported directly to them by Mrs Kirk. Mrs Kirk had been informed.

8 Highways.

(i) Strategic matters.

(a) A55 low noise surfacing. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) A51. The Clerk was making a further inquiries as the understanding a route management study was to be carried out which could affect the volume of traffic past the junction of the A51 and Wicker Lane.

(c) West Cheshire Pedestrian Survey. It was noted the closing date for responses to this survey had been 30 October, 2009.

(ii) Issues with the highway authority.

The Clerk reported he was to meet the Area Highways Manager to discuss the issues previously listed as follows:

Major schemes.

A55 resurfacing River Dee to A51. Need for similar low noise surfacing in Guilden Sutton (and Hoole Village) raised with Highways Agency. Response received as to policy, no date but believed to be 2012.

09/10 074

Local issues:

Maintenance:

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

Guilden Sutton Lane, trip hazard at the site of a fall adjoining fence. No defect revealed, local Member not satisfied.

Guilden Sutton Lane, drainage issue in footway at field entrance. Gulley claimed to have been installed not at the lowest point.

Migration of gravel from drives onto the footway. No current issues.

Condition of cycle route Church Lane - Cinder Lane. Raised with Ian Lifford. Request for barrier to prevent reported use by motorcycles.

Overgrown hedges, Cinder Lane/condition of footway. Raised with Ian Lifford.

Guilden Sutton Lane, lighting obscured by trees. (Old) Reported. Not known if action taken.

Guilden Sutton Lane, overgrown hedges at two properties. (Old) Believed resolved by highway authority.

Overgrown hedges at various locations. PC approach is to advise complainants to report to highway authority.

Footpath 2, condition. Raised with Ian Lifford.

School access to rear of Orchard Croft. Raised with Ian Lifford.

Heath Bank, shrubbery, need for pruning. Dealt with.

Guilden Sutton Lane, obstruction of footway by nettles etc at one location, brambles at the approach to the diversion). Ongoing.

School Lane, encroachment onto the highway. Posts and chains in verge. Council assured highway land could not be lost by default.

Footway rear Cathcart Green. Faulty step. Not adopted. Discussed at site meeting.

Improvement to disabled ramp adjacent to Village Hall. Discussed at site meeting. Work carried out. Lip defect said to exist.

Boundary sign, Guilden Sutton Lane. Reported. Requires refixing.

Flooding, Church Lane. Two locations. Foot of steps from Fox Cover. Reported. Not known what action taken. Possible BT manhole problem near junction with Wicker Lane.

Damage to verges, truncated length of Guilden Sutton Lane. Request for road widening to accommodate HGVs. Concerns at effect of possible work by Scottish Power to their plant in the verge which would affect this.

Visibility issue Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Overgrowth on corner, previously cut back by highway authority.

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. Ongoing apart from response to signals issue.

Speed reviews, A41, Guilden Sutton Lane, Wicker Lane, Hare Lane, Station Lane. Ongoing. Update needed on proposed 30mph on Guilden Sutton Lane and reduction in the limit on Station Lane.

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

Porters Hill, remove centre line, add in edgeline, increase width of footway, provide rumble strips, install signals, reduce tree canopy. Issues raised by Members and the public.

Summerfield Road, disabled parking bay at shops. On hold pending outcome of adjacent planning application.

Permissive paths, Station Lane, Wicker Lane. No further action.

Hare Lane, speed of traffic, double parking in vicinity of Rugby Club. With highway authority/Police. .

Wilding Business Estate, emerging traffic. Ongoing. Lining provided by Messrs Wilding.

SatNavs, request for weight restrictions on unsuitable roads. Response received.

Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Ongoing school issue.

(iii) Current matters.

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device, further lease. The Clerk would pursue a further lease of the equipment in Spring 2010. **Action: The Clerk.**

(b) Signing and lining schemes. (i) Gateway treatment, Guilden Sutton Lane - red patch SLOW marking. (ii) Suggestion by Cllr Kerfoot that a lining scheme or rumble strips on Porters Hill would improve safety. Both these issues would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. This outstanding issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(d) Speed review, Wicker Lane/Hare Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage. The issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(e) Footway rear Cathcart Green/Summerfield Road. No repairs appeared to have been carried out to this unadopted path at this stage.

(f) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the ongoing issue.

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

(h) Disabled access to shops. The issues identified at the meeting between the Clerk and the Access Officer on 19 December 2007 would be revisited. With respect to the concerns raised by Cllr D Hughes that the installation of a further dropped kerb from the shops car park to the pathway of the village hall car park could lead to vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park, which had been referred to the highway authority, a response was awaited. The same applied to the defect with the more recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall which had been mentioned by Cllr D Hughes and which would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(i) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage. The historic issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(j) 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 Clerk was progressing the concern expressed by Cllr D Hughes as to the condition of a School Lane nameplate at the war memorial.

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

(l) Porters Hill. A response was awaited from the highway authority as to the issue raised by Cllr D 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. These issues would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

09/10 076

(m) 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. A response was awaited to the complaint to the Rights of Way Warden as to the use of this path by motorcyclists which had been referred to the highway authority. The issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(n) Footway, Guilden Sutton lane. It was not known what action had been taken by the highway authority as to the obstruction of separate lengths of the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane by nettles, brambles and an overgrown hedge respectively. The issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(o) Parish boundary sign, Guilden Sutton Lane. Although the state of this sign had been referred to the highway authority, it did not appear that any remedial action had been taken. The issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(p) Flooding, Church Lane. Further to Cllr D Hughes informing of flooding taking place at the foot of the Fox Cover steps, this had been reported. It was not known what action had been taken by the highway authority. Flooding reported by Mrs Kirk emanating from a BT manhole had been reported by the highway authority to BT. Both issues would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(q) Verges, Guilden Sutton Lane. Further to Cllr Fisher revisiting the concerns that verges on the truncated length of Guilden Sutton Lane were being damaged by HGVs and the suggestion the highway at that point should be widened to enable passing, a response was awaited from the highway authority with whom the issue, including the possibility of proposed work by Scottish Power, had been raised. The issue would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(r) Speed limit, Station Lane. There was no further information at this stage.

(s) Further to Cllr Brown informing of the need to edge out the footway at Cathcart Green, the matter would be reported to the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.**

(t) Signs, Wicker Lane. Further to Cllr J Hughes referring to signs left behind by contractors at the S bend on Wicker Lane, the matter was being referred to the highway authority.

(u) Gulley kerb, Wicker Lane. The position of this kerb in the carriageway, raised by Cllr Fisher, was being reported to the highway authority.

(iii) Lighting. There were no faults to report.

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Co-operative Bank Interest 4 September	£	1.36
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Scottish Widows no 1 Interest 01/10/09	£	0.00
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Scottish Widows no 2 Interest 01/10/2009	£	1.64
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(ii) Payments:

S&H Services Shelter cleaning	£	17.00
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Gresty

Grounds maintenance	
September	£ 244.00
Weed killer x2	<u>£ 40.00</u>
	£ 284.00

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Clerk:

Expenses:

Newsletter postage	£	19.42
Postage	£	1.68
Photocopies		
273@5p	£	13.65
Mileage		
8@40p	<u>£</u>	<u>3.20</u>
	£	37.95

Proposed by Cllr Fisher
Seconded by Cllr Kerfoot
and agreed.

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank
28 September £ 9,706.44

Scottish Widows no 1
1 October 2009 £20,752.93

Scottish Widows no 2
1 October 2009 £ 2,610.49

(iv) Report on contingency payments.

Budget: £ 695.00
Payments: £ NIL

(v) Insurance.

(a) Fidelity. The application was being completed by the Clerk in line with the proposed system of check. A quotation would be sought in the sum of £40,000 to include headroom. Approval would require:

A Councillor to check the bank reconciliation at least quarterly.
Two Councillors to sign all cheques.
No electronic fund transfers.
Insurance arrangements to be approved by the full Council.

(b) General cover. Further consideration would be given to a number of individual elements within the insurance initially by Cllr D Hughes and the Clerk. The same would apply to possible alternative providers, including the Council's bankers which had made an approach and brokers acting for Norwich Union. This would enable the market to be tested.

(vi) Grant application form. Cllr Fisher reported. A further meeting would be held by the sub group comprising Cllrs Paterson, Fisher, Kerfoot and the Responsible Financial Officer to be followed by a discussion at the December meeting and a decision in January.

(vii) Participatory budgeting. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (a) Chester waste collection and recycling contract. There was nothing further to report at this stage. Members were reminded that Cllr Bailey had asked to be informed of any concerns arising under the new contract.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. Cllr Fisher asked if the Borough Council could be particularly

requested to sweep leaves following the autumn fall from the narrow footpath on Porters Hill.
This was agreed. **Action: The Clerk.**

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(iii) Dog fouling. (a) The dell. The Clerk understood the former Chester City Council dog warden had retired and a borough wide service had been introduced. He would make further inquiries. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

11 Trees and Hedges.

(i) Access to public footpath no 2 from Oaklands. In the absence of a response from the former Chester City Council as to the extent of the local authority's ownership of the access to footpath 2 at the rear of Porters Croft, a fresh approach would be made by the Clerk to the successor authority.

(ii) Hedges, Guilden Sutton Lane. As minuted above, a response was awaited from the highway authority 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. This would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(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. This would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(iv) Hedges, Porters Hill. A response was awaited from the highway authority as to the need for overgrown hedges on Porters Hill which were at head height to be pruned. This would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(v) Land, Church Lane. Further to the Council being informed of overhanging branches to trees on private land which it was thought could be a potential hazard, these would be inspected by the Tree Warden. The ownership of the land would also be clarified. **Action: Cllr Brown/The Clerk.**

(vi) Sycamore, Memorial Garden. The Clerk reported the receipt of a revised estimate to include the removal of dead wood from the higher branches in addition to the removal of the lower limb. It was agreed a further estimate should be sought. **Action: The Clerk.**

(vii) Trees Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Further to Cllr S Parker informing of complaints relating to trees at the junction of Wicker Lane and Church Lane, this had been referred to the highway authority. A response was awaited. This would be raised with the Area Highways Manager.

(viii) Trees adjoining the highway. A Member referred to a number of trees above a wall which he felt had the potential to cause serious injury. This was being referred to the Tree Officer and to the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.**

(ix) Hedge, Village Hall. Cllr Brown informed of an overgrown hedge in the vicinity of the village hall.

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Annual Meeting 22 October 2009. The Clerk informed that regrettably he had been unable to attend.

13 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(i) Funding for local councils. Further to the discussion held on 16 July 2009 between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk and Nicola McKeand, National Management Trainee, as to the extent of public services provided by local councils, what, if any services the Parish Council would be interested in providing in future, the parish issues log and relationships, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Electoral Review, Cheshire West and Chester. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Highways orders: delegated decision taking. The Clerk informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Parish Councils event 14 October 2009. The Clerk informed that regrettably he had been unable to attend this event, held in Winsford, but had obtained the papers.

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(v) Clerk's Group. Further to the Clerk informing he had been invited to join a Clerk's Group which would meet with Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to discuss issues relevant to clerks and parish and town councils, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vi) It was noted the next meeting of the Gowy/Eddisbury Community Forum would take place on Tuesday 24 November 2009.

(vii) Maintenance of Churchyards and Burial Grounds. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 13 October, 2009, of a request from the Cemeteries and Crematorium Team Leader for the application for grant towards the maintenance costs incurred by the parochial church council to be resubmitted. The Clerk informed he had passed the correspondence to Mr K Emerton.

(viii) Local Transport Plan consultation **(Response required by 10 January 2010)**.

(ix) Sustainable communities strategy consultation. **(Response required by 10 January 2010)**.

(x) Core strategy, options and issues. **(Response required by 10 January 2010)**

It was noted these consultations were reported under Strategic Planning above.

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

15 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

16 Health. There were no action items to report.

17 Policing.

(i) Western Police Area Have Your Say. It was noted the next meeting in Chester would take place on 26 January 2010 in St Mary's Centre.

(ii) Community Safety Wardens. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Ward walk. The Clerk informed that PC Baker had been pleased with the outcome of the ward walk held on Monday 26 October at 10.30am. Members had been concerned the date coincided with half term and believed the hall and shops area was usually more busy at 9am and 3pm on school days. A request had been made for the walk to take place at these times at a later date but on this occasion, this had not been possible.

(iv) Policing priorities. The Clerk informed of the receipt, by correspondence dated 28 September, 2009, of this annual consultation for which a response was required by 5 November, 2009. Cllrs D Hughes and Moulton were aware.

18 Newsletter. A further issue had been distributed advertising the vacancy for a Member of the Council and to publicise the new bus timetable. The next issue would refer to the Christmas lights competition.

19 Memorial Garden. See also minute 11 (vi) above. Further planting would be undertaken in due course by Cllr D Hughes and Cllr J Hughes.

20 Bulb planting. The Clerk confirmed that three sacks of mixed woodland daffodil bulbs had been ordered. Cllr D Hughes had approached the Probation Service as to the possibility of unpaid workers planting the bulbs. It was agreed to the Clerk should contact the supervisor to progress the issue. Cllr Kerfoot inquired as to the possibility of planters being provided at a central location in the village. Further inquiries would be made by Cllr Brown of Helsby Parish Council. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

21 Parish IT. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

22 Primary School. Cllr D Hughes revisited positive outcomes revealed by the recent short notice inspection by Ofsted which had rated the school good overall with some outstanding aspects. A letter of congratulation had been sent to the head teacher.

23 Disability Discrimination Act: barrier, Hill Top Road. The Clerk understood that renewed action was being taken by Cllr Bailey. **ACTION: Cllr B J Bailey.**
09/10 080

24 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.

25 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.

26 Community events: (i) Village Fête 2010. Cllr D Hughes said the committee for 2010 would welcome new members. The fete would take place on 10 July, 2010.

27 Land Registry. Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt, by correspondence dated 30 June 2009, of an approach by the Land Registry as to parish councils ensuring their land was registered at a discounted fee from £30 for an estate valued at up to £50,000, the matter was being pursued by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

28 Cheshire Landscape Trust. The Clerk reported the receipt of an acknowledgement from the Cheshire Landscape Trust in respect of the agreed donation of £100.

29 Remembrance Sunday. Messrs Gresty were being asked if, as in the past, they wished to carry out a sweep of the memorial garden area. The Clerk indicated he would visit immediately prior to the service to check if further attention was necessary. An inquiry would be made of PC Baker as to the possibility of an officer being in attendance.

30 Member's information items.

Parish boundary signs. Cllr Fisher referred to the need for the parish boundary signs in Guilden Sutton Lane and Station Lane to receive attention from the highway authority. The Clerk informed these would be reported.

Green Belt. Cllr J Hughes referred to the fragility of the Green Belt in and around Guilden Sutton and informed there were concerns about the future of green belts generally.

Christmas Tree. Cllr Brown inquired as to the provision of a Christmas tree in the Village Hall. It was agreed a tree should be provided within a budget of £30.00.

31 Information correspondence.

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council: Speed indicator device deployment guidance; Opening of Greenway extension to Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford 25 October 2009; A55/A51 changes to road markings; West Cheshire Together Local Strategic Partnership Network Conference; Spatial Planning News issue 1; Partnership Bulletin October 2009; Rural West Area Partnership Board Update.

Cheshire Community Council: annual accounts and summary financial statements, annual general meeting 19 November 2009.

CPRE: Cheshire Viewpoint October 2009.

Newsletter no 134.

Cheshire Police Authority: Western Area Have Your Say meetings September 2009; Homewatch information from Trading Standards; Homewatch Police Inspector's Updates.

Chester Voluntary Action newsletter.

Plunkett Foundation, survey of parish councils.

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.

Nil.

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