

Parish Council Minutes

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on Monday 11 May 2009 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall on the rising of the annual parish meeting.

Chairman: Cllr D M 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 Cllr B J Bailey, Cllr H Deynem, Cllr S Parker 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 M S J Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 09/10498/FUL conservatory at Howgills, Church Lane for Mr Brian Meredith due to being well known to the applicant.

Cllr D Hughes expressed a personal and prejudicial interest in business relating to the Gardens Open Day or Village Fete as an officer of Guilden Sutton Community Association and a committee chair of the Governors of Guilden Sutton CE Controlled Primary School.

(iii) Election of a Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. It was proposed by Cllr I Brown, seconded by Cllr M Kerfoot that Cllr D Hughes should be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, Cllr Hughes was elected unanimously. Cllr Hughes signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Members for their consideration. He expressed the Council's appreciation to Cllr D M Fisher for his extended chairmanship and to the Clerk for his efforts during the previous 12 months.

(iv) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 April 2009. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the council held on Monday 6 April 2009 were proposed by Cllr P M Paterson, seconded by Cllr W Moulton and agreed as a correct record.

(v) Election of a Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. It was proposed by Cllr M S J Roberts, seconded by Cllr J Hughes that Cllr P M Paterson should be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, Cllr Paterson was elected unanimously. Cllr Paterson signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Members for their consideration.

(vi) Election of representatives/attendees to outside bodies:

(a) Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Chester Area Meeting (three representatives). It was agreed that Cllrs D Hughes, Fisher and Kerfoot should be nominated as the Council's representatives. The Clerk stressed that as many Members who so wished could attend but that only three could participate in any vote which may arise.

(b) Cheshire Community Council Village Halls Forum. It was agreed that Cllr D Hughes should be nominated as the Council' s representative.

(c) CPRE. It was agreed that Cllr Brown should be nominated as the Council' s representative. 09/10 013

(d) Guilden Sutton Village Hall Management Committee. It was agreed that Cllr J Hughes should be nominated as the Council' s representative.

(e) Cheshire West and Chester Gowy Ward Community Forum (successor body to Gowy North Area Committee.) It was agreed that Cllrs D Hughes, Paterson and Moulton should be nominated as the Council' s representatives.

(f) Cheshire Police Authority Chester Have Your Say Meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Moulton should be nominated as the Council' s representative.

(g) Any successor body to the Chester District Public Transport Liaison Committee. The Clerk informed that public transport issues would fall in the first instance to the community forum to be established by the Cheshire West and Chester Council with a reference to the highways and transportation committee should that be appropriate. It was agreed that Cllr Roberts should continue to lead on this issue.

(vii) Appointment of office holders.

(a) Parish Paths Warden. It was agreed that Brian Lewin Esq should be invited to continue.

(b) Parish Tree Wardens. It was agreed that Cllr Brown and Alan Young Esq should be invited to continue.

(c) Local Bus User Contact. It was agreed that Cllr Roberts should be invited to continue.

(viii) Dates of future meetings: 8 June, 20 July, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December 2009.

(ix) Publication scheme. (i) publication. Further to the adoption of the new model publication scheme from 1 January 2009, the Clerk indicated he had progressed the completion and publication of the necessary information including charging arrangements. Subject to further clarification of charges, this would be passed to the webmaster for inclusion on the village web site and highlighted in the newsletter. **ACTION: The Clerk, B Lewin Esq (Webmaster).** (ii) training. The Clerk was reviewing the training DVD prepared by the commissioner on the application of the scheme. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

(x) Code of Conduct. The Clerk would prepare and circulate a note of the main points made by the Monitoring Officer in due course.

(xi) Grant application forms. Cllr Fisher referred to his proposal the Council should introduce a standard application form to provide guidelines for those seeking financial support and consistency. The Chairman indicated he would prefer a lighter touch whilst covering the procedures which applied to the Council. Cllr J Hughes suggested that organisations were more likely to have the confidence to apply if there was a clear procedure. It was agreed that Members would consider the draft proposal produced by Cllr Fisher and revisit the issue at the June meeting.

2 Public Speaking Time.

There was no public speaking.

3 Planning:

(i) New applications.

09/10498/FUL conservatory at Howgills, Church Lane for Mr Brian Meredith. This item was withdrawn from the agenda as the papers were not available.

09/10599/FUL mono pitch hay barn extension at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane. Further inquiries would be made by Cllrs D Hughes and Paterson.

09/10 014

(ii) Decision notices.

09/10276/FUL single storey extension to rear of property, porch to front and loft conversion at Westview, Hare Lane CH3 7ED for Mr and Mrs Collinson. Planning permission. (Decision notice awaited.)

09/10317/FUL extension and alterations at 3 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr and Mrs R Spencer. Planning permission. Condition re making good of garage wall to no 1.

09/10375/FUL conservatory at Tabora, Belle Vue Lane for Mr Duckworth. Planning permission

(iii) Parish Plan: (a) progress report. Further to the informative presentation kindly offered by Cllr Paterson during the annual parish meeting it was agreed the content thereof should be accepted and approved as the basis for public consultation. (b) Village Design Statement. There was nothing further to add at this stage.

4 Quality Council issues.

(a) CiLCA qualification. The Clerk reported further on his intention to achieve qualification by March 2010 ahead of the next parish council elections in May 2011. He was to attend training on the new power of wellbeing provision on Tuesday May 12.

(b) Training: general. The Clerk had progressed the indications by Members of the courses they wished to attend but sought clarification and confirmation. These were agreed as amended and would be advised to the County Office as follows:

Basic induction 13 June 2009, Cllrs J Hughes, Kerfoot.
Finance 24 June 2009, Cllrs Roberts, Paterson.

(c) Moving Towards Quality Parish Council Status. (i) 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. (ii) Status. The Clerk had circulated to all Members details of 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. Members would now consider the actions which were necessary. It was noted a significant number appeared to be wholly or partially met. These would be considered in detail by the Quality Council group following input from all Members..

5 Parish car park.

(i) Grounds maintenance. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Improvement scheme.

(a) Contract work. (i) removal of overgrowth. The quotation received from Messrs Gresty as to the removal of the ground growth at the rear of the bank had been raised at a site meeting attended by Cllr D Hughes and the Clerk. As a first phase, it had been agreed the ground growth would be cleared in front of the tree line preceded by two applications of weedkiller within the initial quotation of £87. (ii) Boundary treatment. The method adopted by Messrs Plemstall Services for the retention of the mulch was revisited. The Council concluded the measures taken would not succeed in the long term and agreed that quotations should be sought 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. **Action: The Clerk.**

(b) Rear boundary wall. The Clerk would endeavour to identify an alternative contractor able to carry out any necessary powers to the sandstone wall. Cllr Fisher indicated he had carried out repairs to the damaged steps using an epoxy resin solution.

(c) The Clerk reported the receipt of further advice of a revaluation of business rates in 2010 which would affect the car park. The revised value would be advised in October 2009.

09/10 015

The intention would not be to increase revenue overall.

(d) Grounds maintenance. Cllr Fisher informed of the need for the grass to be cut and for weeds to be removed from the hard surface. The contractor would be informed. **Action: The Clerk.**

6 Leisure Services

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(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. The condition of the mesh would be revisited at the June meeting.

(ii) Children's Play Area.

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

(b) Inspections: condition of safety surfacing. Further to the receipt, by correspondence dated 4 April 2009, of advice that Guilden Sutton Pre School had ceased to use the play area due to the condition of the safety surfacing, Cllr Paterson informed as to the outcome of a site meeting with the equipment contractor. An estimate was received in the sum of £650 plus VAT for repairs. It was agreed that a further estimate should be sought. **Action: The Clerk.**

(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 be emphasised to Messrs Gresty in the formal acceptance of their tender.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Footpath 7. The condition of the adjoining Oaks which appeared to be dying back would be revisited. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

(b) Footpath 2. (i) Clearance and sweeping. There was nothing further to report at this stage. The Clerk was progressing with Cheshire West and Chester Council the possibility of a site visit. This would cover the extent of the work which had been carried out which had not dealt entirely with the condition of the surface of the path between the kerbs together with issues minuted directly beneath. (ii) Future 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 would seek to raise these issues at the propose site meeting minuted above. He would also pursue the possibility of additional lengthsman hours for the route and for the path at the rear of Orchard Croft to enable the standard of cleansing to be maintained at a higher level than would be provided by the three scheduled visits a year.

(c) Footpath 1. 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. There was no correspondence to report to this meeting.

(f) Permissive Paths. The Parish Paths Warden had been approached with a view to him discussing the possibility of a permissive path on Wicker Lane with Mr Arden. **Action: Parish Paths Warden.**

(iv) Grounds Maintenance.

(a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Parish Council contract 2009/10. The Clerk was confirming the acceptance of the tender dated 23 March 2009 from Messrs Gresty which compared favourably with the previous year. The formal acceptance would require detritus to be removed from the play area rather than deposited in the hedge bottom, as minuted above and docketed to be provided on a current basis.

(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. The involvement of the Council in the Gardens Open Day and in work to improve the parish car park had been noted in the newsletter. Opportunities would be sought by the Clerk for further publicity. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

7 Public transport.

(i) Services general. Cllr Roberts informed he was corresponding with the executive member for environment, Cllr Neil Ritchie.

(ii) C80. Mrs Kirk was being informed by the Clerk there had been no recent change to the time table.

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 2008 meeting. These were:

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.

09/10 017

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 believed these and the issues minuted directly beneath, where no progress had been possible during 2008/09, should be raised at the earliest possible opportunity with the new Cheshire West and Chester Council through the appropriate officer visiting the Council. It was agreed the list should be updated and an officer sought for the July meeting.

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device. The Clerk would 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. Cheshire West and Chester Council had offered a further lease commencing 21 May 2009. This would be accepted and a rota drawn up.

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

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

(e) Hare Lane. The Clerk understood the concerns with respect to the speed of traffic on Hare Lane and double parking in the vicinity of the rugby club were being progressed by PC Baker.

(f) Footway rear Cathcart Green/Summerfield Road. 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. It was noted a further dropped kerb had been provided from the shops car park to the pathway of the village hall car park. Cllr D Hughes expressed concern this could lead to vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park. This would be raised with the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.** Cllr D Hughes further informed of a defect with the recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall.

(j) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk understood that traffic conditions at this junction, particularly on those Sunday mornings when car boot sales were held at Chester Rugby Club, were being progressed by PC Baker. The Clerk reported a response dated 14 April 2009 from the principal traffic engineer to the concerns raised by Mrs Kirk in the following terms:

"The issue of large vehicles overhanging a running lane is far from ideal, however we are unable to introduce a restriction that prohibits only large vehicles from undertaking right turns. Any right turn ban and/or closure of the gap in the central reservation would therefore cause inconvenience to other road users, and would likely lead to a significant increase in U-turn manoeuvres at the Green Lane junction which would not be in the interests of road safety.

We have no record of any personal injury accidents over a 3 year period involving large vehicles waiting in the central reservation, and the possibility of introducing traffic signals could not be justified on accident savings grounds.

09/10 018

In the circumstances I am unable to suggest a satisfactory solution at this time but please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter further”.

Cllrs Moulton and Roberts commented. It was agreed the response should be forwarded to Mrs Kirk. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

(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 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.

(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. A response was awaited to the complaint to the Parish Paths Warden as to the use of this path by motorcyclists which had been referred to the Area Maintenance Engineer.

(o) Footway, Guilden Sutton lane. It was not known what action had been taken by the Area Maintenance Engineer as to the obstruction of separate lengths of the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane by nettles and an overgrown hedge respectively.

(p) Parish boundary sign, Guilden Sutton Lane. Although the state of this sign had been referred to the Area Maintenance Engineer, it did not appear that any remedial action had been taken.

(q) 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.

(iii) Lighting. There were no faults to be reported from this meeting.

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank interest 3 April 2009	£	0.57
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Cheshire West and Chester Council Precept 2009/10	£13,104.00
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Chester City Council Lengthsman grant 2008	£ 645.84
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(ii) Payments:

CPRE Subscription 2009/10	£ 29.00
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Allianz Insurance renewal	£ 1,401.69
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P M Paterson Parish Plan request no 1	£ 15.95
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09/10 19

Sharon Press Parish Plan request no 2	£ 145.00*
Fay R Kerans Parish Plan request no 3	£ 42.00
Direct2Door Newsletter distribution (24375)	£ 23.00 (inc VAT £3.00)
Gresty Grounds mntce/lengthsman	£ 244.00

Clerk:

Expenses:

Postage Newsletter (arrears)	£ 20.70
Newsletter	£ 8.22
Newsletter	£ 8.65
Photocopies 669 @5p	£ 33.45
Mileage 8 @40p	<u>£ 3.20</u>
	£ 74.22

Direct2Door Newsletter distribution (24522)	£ 23.00 (VAT £3.00)
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D Fisher Epoxy resin	£ 15.89
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* For information only. Previously paid.

Proposed by Cllr Moulton
Seconded by Cllr Kerfoot
and agreed

(iii) Balances

Co-op Bank 1 May	£16,699.91
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Scottish Widows no 1 1 April 2009	£20,752.93
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Scottish Widows no 2 1 January 2009	£ 2,607.23
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(iv) Report on contingency payments.

2009/10 Budget: Payments	£ 695.00 £ NIL
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2008/09

Budget:

£ 1,305.00

Payments:

£ NIL (£6,120.00)

The allocation of expenditure amounting to £6,120.00 during 2008/09 which might, should Members wish, be set against contingency spending, would be revisited.

(v) Insurance.

(a) Fidelity. An up to date application form with respect to the proposed increase in the fidelity limit had been obtained by the Clerk who understood the guideline was year end balances plus 50% of the precept. On this basis, a quotation would be sought in the sum of £40,000 to include headroom. In order to comply with the insurer's requirements, the system of check included in the application, including the following, was formally adopted:

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.

This was proposed by Cllr D Hughes, seconded by Cllr Moulton and agreed.

(b) 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 recently made an approach and brokers acting for Norwich Union. This would enable the market to be tested.

(vi) External Audit. It was noted the audit had been called for 20 May 2009. The required notice had been exhibited. The Clerk reported a satisfactory internal audit had been completed by the Internal auditor. The completed annual return and supporting notes were circulated to all Members.

(a) Annual return. It was proposed by Cllr D Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the annual return should be approved. (b) Statement of Governance. It was proposed by Cllr D Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the statement of governance should be approved. (c) Assessment of risk. It was proposed by Cllr D Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the Council's arrangements for assessing and managing risk should be approved.

10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (a) Chester waste collection and recycling contract. The Clerk informed there would be considerable publicity including an information pack to each household.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. (a) 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, on which no progress had been possible, the Clerk was progressing the possibility of a site visit with Cheshire West and Chester Council. (b) White Tornado. The suggestion this activity should be resumed would be revisited. (c) Fly tipping. The Clerk would report further in due course as to the initiative proposed by Derek Bowker Esq, Project Co-ordinator, Project Rural Matters.

(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) Provision of bins. The Dog Warden had been thanked for the bin provided for the reception of canine faeces at Fox Cover.

(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 Area Maintenance Engineer 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. A response was awaited from the Area Maintenance Engineer as to the need for overgrown hedges on Porters Hill which were at head height to be pruned.

(v) Hedge, Station Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to Cllr J Hughes's concern with respect to the condition of a hedge on Station Lane.

(vi) 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.**

(vii) Sycamore, Memorial Garden. Further to Cllr D Hughes expressing concern at the high branches, it was confirmed previously approved work to remove the lower branch would be suspended pending an inspection of further work which may be necessary. The advice of tree officers would be sought. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. It was noted the next meeting of the Area Meeting, which would be the annual meeting, would be held on Wednesday 10 June 2009. It was agreed that if necessary, the Clerk would be nominated as Honorary Secretary with Cllr V Roberts (Farndon) as Chair and Cllr R Parkin (Mickle Trafford and District) as Vice Chairman.

13 Chester City Council

(i) Invitation to civic events. The Clerk confirmed it had not been possible for the Rt Worshipful, The Lord Mayor, Cllr B J Bailey, to arrange his intended regalia talks.

14 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(i) Funding for local councils. Confirmation of the continuing payment to the Council of the lengthsman grant during 2009/10 was awaited and would be pursued by the Clerk.

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

(iii) Event for local councils Thursday 30 April, 6pm at The Fourways Inn, Delamere. Cllr Fisher and the Clerk had attended. Cllr Fisher reported. The issue of double taxation had been raised.

(iv) Highways orders: delegated decision taking. The Clerk informed he had addressed the highways and transportation local joint committee as to its proposals for delegating decisions to officers which appeared to restrict the opportunity local councils presently enjoyed under the Charter to influence decision taking. He would revisit this with officers.

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 in Chester would be held on 19 May 2009 and 26 January, 2010 in St Mary's Centre.

(ii) Police/Probation initiative. See minute 10 (ii)(c) above.

(iii) Ward walk Sunday 24 May 2009, 1000. The time and date of this proposed ward walk with PC Baker were noted.

19 Newsletter. The Clerk informed an issue had been distributed to publicise the annual parish meeting.

20 Memorial Garden. See also minute 11 (vii) above.

There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the planting by Cllr D Hughes of a further three or four shrubs, to be supplied by Cllr J Hughes, to fill gaps.

21 Bulb planting. A photographic record had been taken of the 2009 show. Planting would take place on the parish car park bank in 2009.

22 Parish IT. Work being carried out by Mr B Lewin, webmaster, was noted.

23 Primary School. Cllr D Hughes reported.

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

ACTION: City Cllr B Bailey.

25 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.

26 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.

27 Community events:

(i) Gardens Day 2009. The organisers had been informed the Council had been pleased to award a grant of up to £500 which it would wish to see reduced by fundraising should this be possible. Cllr Kerfoot reported further.

(ii) Village Fete 2009. The organisers had been informed the Council had been pleased to award a grant of £500. Cllr Paterson reported further.

(iii) St John' s Holiday Club. The PCC had been informed the Council would be pleased to offer a grant of £200 subject to the provision of receipts.

28 Mrs C M Russell MP. The Clerk informed an advice surgery had been held in the Village Hall on Friday 24 April 2009. This had been extremely successful and the time had been fully occupied.

29 Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting. Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting had been dealt with.

30 Public Sector Equality Duties: Requirement to pay due regard to race, disability and gender equality. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission as to their duties and the impact of forthcoming legislation due to come into force in the latter part of 2011. 09/10 023

31 Member's information items.

Those arising had been recorded in the appropriate minute .

32 Information correspondence.

Finance: Scottish Widows notice to customers.

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association: Newsletter Spring 2009

Health: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust newsletter no 5.

Cheshire Police: guide to force operations, accessing local crime information, service desks.

Appeals: British Red Cross.

Clerks and Councils Direct May 2009.

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.

33 Clerk's terms and conditions. It was hoped the outstanding payments due to the Clerk and an approach to pay and grading issues in future years would be resolved as quickly as possible.

34 Possible capital expenditure. Further to the Council being informed of a change in circumstances which might offer an opportunity for a capital acquisition, the Clerk reported he had progressed this on an informal basis. It had not been anticipated there would be an immediate reply.