

Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 20 July 2009 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr D Hughes.

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

In attendance: Two members of the public.

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Hughes.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bailey, Deynem and Parker and from 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 D Hughes expressed a personal or prejudicial interest in business relating to Guilden Sutton Community Association, the Gardens Open Day and Village Fête as an officer of Guilden Sutton Community Association and in activities at Guilden Sutton CE Controlled Primary School as a community governor and committee chair.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 8 June 2009. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 8 June 2009 were proposed by Cllr P M Paterson, seconded by Cllr M S J Roberts and agreed as a correct record subject to the reference in minute 26 to the Sheriff of Chester and her Consort, Cllr Hilarie McNae and Dr Colin McNae representing the Lord Mayor at the Village Fête being amended to refer to the Gardens Open Day.

It was noted that “again” in minute 5 (i) should have read “against”.

(iv) Dates of future meetings: 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December 2009.

(v) Publication scheme. (i) Training. The Clerk was reviewing the training DVD prepared by the commissioner on the application of the scheme. **ACTION: The Clerk.**

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

2 Public Speaking Time.

Mr Daniel Palmer. Mr Daniel Palmer referred to the amount of litter at various locations within the parish. Mr Palmer was thanked for his attendance and assured the issue would be considered by the Council.

Mr Andrew Peers. Mr Andrew Peers referred to the need for the dental surgery at 3a Summerfield Road to reorganise in order to become DDA compliant and to meet more stringent NHS requirements regarding decontamination procedures. It was proposed to occupy the ground floor of the premises with the two businesses therein relocating to an empty unit at 1 Summerfield Road. Discussions were taking place with interested parties and a planning application was to be considered. It would not be viable for the practice to continue unless it would comply with the requirements of the primary care trust. Mr Peers was thanked for his attendance.

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3 Planning:

(i) New applications.

09/10939/FUL steel framed portal building extension at Tile Farm, Wicker Lane. Further inquiries would be made by Cllrs D Hughes and Paterson. The Clerk referred to a copy letter to the LPA received from Mr R Hibbert, Tile Barn, Wicker Lane by correspondence dated 16 July 2009. Mr Hibbert referred to the height of the proposed building and to additional traffic on Wicker Lane. A Member referred to the previous view of the highway authority that Wicker Lane was unsuitable for additional traffic if the crops to be stored did not arise from Tile Farm itself. It was agreed a site visit should be made.

09/10781/TEL upgrade to telecommunications equipment, land adjacent to Tile Farm, Wicker Lane. The Clerk reported on this proposal to upgrade antennas on the existing T Mobile mast from 2G to 2G/3G. Submissions had been made by the nearest affected occupiers in Littleton parish. It had been pointed out the accompanying drawing referring to tree cover was inaccurate as it did not reflect the reduced height of the mast. The Clerk had spoken to the agents, who were unaware, and had requested an accurate drawing which had not been forthcoming. The following response, which was agreed, had been sent to the LPA:

"My Council would be grateful for an extension of the period in which to comment as drawing 63900/003 refers to the original mast height and not the amended height as existing. The LPA will no doubt be aware of this discrepancy. An amended plan has been requested from the agent. The LPA is asked not to respond until it is satisfied it has the correct information on which to base its observations."

(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.)

(iii) Parish Plan: progress report. Cllr Paterson reported a number of comments had been received at the village fête. A coffee morning type launch was now proposed.

(iv) Village Design Statement. Cllr Fisher reported he had prepared a display for the village fête. Interest had been elicited. A poster was to be prepared. The relationship with the Council was agreed.

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. Basic induction training on 13 June 2009 had been attended by Cllrs J Hughes and Kerfoot. Finance training on 24 June 2009 had been attended by Cllrs Roberts and Paterson. Cllr Paterson referred to the advantages of a modest Chairman's allowance.

(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. 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 were considering 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, a meeting of which was to be arranged, following input from all Members.

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) Contract work. (i) removal of overgrowth. The Clerk reported further on work undertaken by Messrs Gresty towards implementing the first phase of work to deal with ivy and other overgrowth at the rear of the bank.
09/10 037

The ground growth was be cleared in front of the tree line preceded by two applications of weed killer within the initial quotation of £87. Members would visit to inspect the outcome. Action: **All Members.** (ii) Boundary treatment. The Clerk was approaching 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. (b) Rear boundary wall. The Clerk was endeavouring to identify an alternative contractor able to carry out any necessary repairs to the sandstone walls.

6 Leisure Services

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. It was noted the litter bin had recently been overfull. This would be drawn to the attention of Messrs Gresty. Cllr Fisher suggested the adjoining landowner should be informed when the roadside ditch was to be maintained although it was noted the contractor did not advise his work programme in advance.

(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 on the basketball equipment had been inspected. No urgent issues were disclosed.

(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 acceptance, in the sum of £650 plus VAT, of an estimate for repairs from Messrs Play and Leisure, the Clerk reported the work had been completed. The Clerk would pursue the possibility of grants to enable the relaying of the entire safety surfacing. **ACTION: The Clerk.** Cllr Paterson reported a slight trip hazard. Cllr D Hughes referred to criticism but the Clerk understood the principal user group was satisfied and would again make use of the facility. Cllr Fisher reported he had refixed a bolt to the noughts and crosses unit having kindly located a suitable tool.

(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. Messrs Gresty had been requested to carry out a summer trim to the boundary hedge and this had been carried out.

(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. The Clerk reported he had attended a site meeting with Mr I Lifford, Area Manager, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council. This had covered Footpath 2 and its accesses, the maintenance of the new steps, the section of cycleway from Church Lane to Cinder Lane, the section of the Longster Trail running between the hedges on Cinder Lane and the footway access to the primary school at the rear of Orchard Croft. It had been agreed, subject to the Parish Council's views, that the paths would be brought back to specification and thereafter a further four hours lengthsman's grant a week would be made available for their maintenance. The Borough Council's offer to assist with this long standing issue was warmly welcomed and accepted in principle subject to the Council reserving the right to negotiate additional hours if the allocation proved to be insufficient.

(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.

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

(f) Permissive Paths. It was not known if the Parish Paths Warden had been able to discuss 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. Performance against 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. See minute 11 (ix) beneath..

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

7 Public transport.

(i) Services general. Further to Cllr Roberts informing he was corresponding with the executive member for environment, Cllr Neil Ritchie, on public transport issues, Cllr Roberts indicated he had yet to receive a response.

(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. A55 low noise surfacing. Further to the report to the previous meeting, the Clerk reported the receipt of a reply from Mrs C M Russell MP enclosing one from the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency, dated 18 June, 2009, which indicated that ministers had stipulated that funding would not be provided for the resurfacing of trunk roads and motorways for the purpose of noise mitigation ahead of maintenance need. It was noted that Cllr B J Bailey was to take action.

(ii) Local matters.

The Clerk indicated that prior to submitting the action list to the highway authority, he would carry out site inspections to verify the position.

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.

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 and brambles.

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. (Response received.)

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

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.

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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.

(a) Speed issues. (i) Speed indicator device. (a) Newsletter. 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. (b) Further lease. The Clerk had an offer of a further lease during the period Thursday 17 September to Friday 2 October. This would be progressed by Cllr Moulton. **Action: Cllr Moulton.** (c) Lease commencing 21 May 2009. The data from these sessions had been received by the Clerk and referred to Cllr D Hughes. Further to a Member referring to the parking of a vehicle in front of the equipment when it had been in use which may have obstructed visibility of the device for oncoming traffic, advice had been sought as to an appropriate response to these circumstances. This had suggested the session should be terminated.

(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 as to when or how a decision would be reached by Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council.

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

(e) Hare Lane. The outcome of inquiries by PC Baker as to the concerns with respect to the speed of traffic on Hare Lane and double parking in the vicinity of the rugby club were not known at this stage.

(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. 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 had been referred to the highway authority. A response was awaited. The same applied to the defect with the recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall which had been mentioned by Cllr D Hughes.

(j) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the outcome of inquiries understood to be in hand by PC Baker as to traffic conditions at this junction, particularly on those Sunday mornings when car boot sales were held at Chester Rugby Club.

(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, brambles and an overgrown hedge respectively.

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(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.

(r) 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 Area Maintenance Engineer with whom the issue, including the possibility of proposed work by Scottish Power, had been raised.

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

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

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank interest	
5 June	£ 2.41

(ii) Payments:

Gresty	
Grounds maintenance	£ 244.00*

Play and Leisure	
Safety surface repairs	£ 747.50 (inc £97.50 VAT)*

M Kerfoot	
Gardens Day	£ 428.42*

S & H Services	
Shelter cleaning	£ 17.00

ChALC	
Training 13 June	£ 60.00
Training 24 June	<u>£ 60.00</u>
	£ 120.00

Audit Commission	
External audit	£ 155.25 (VAT £20.25)

Gresty	
Grounds maintenance	£ 274.00

Clerk:

Salary	
April – June 2009	£ 1,208.43
Arrears	
April 2007 – March 2008	£ 107.97
April 2008 – March 2009	<u>£ 363.30</u>
	£ 1,679.70

Expenses:

Postage	£ NIL
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Photocopies	
326 @5p	£ 16.30
Mileage	
40@40p	<u>£ 16.00</u>
	£ 32.30

09/10 041

* Confirmation of urgent payments
(urgency due to interval between meetings)

Proposed by Cllr Roberts
Seconded by Cllr Paterson
and agreed.

Guilden Sutton Community Association per Village Fête	£ 500.00
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Proposed by Cllr Roberts
Seconded by Cllr Moulton
and agreed

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank 30 June 2009	£14,681.56
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Scottish Widows no 1 1 April 2009	£20,752.93
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Scottish Widows no 2 1 April 2009	£ 2,607.23
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(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) External Audit. The annual return and supporting notes and documentation had been submitted to the Audit Commission.

(vii) Grant application forms. Cllr Fisher further referred to his proposal that the Council should introduce a standard application form to provide guidelines for those seeking financial support and consistency. It was agreed the draft produced by Cllr Fisher would be considered by a

sub group comprising Cllrs Paterson, Fisher, Kerfoot and the Responsible Financial Officer and revisited at the September meeting.

10 Environment Services:

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

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(ii) Amenity cleansing. (a) Belle Vue Lane. Following the site meeting with he had attended with 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 had progressed the possibility of a site visit with Cheshire West and Chester Council as minuted above. It had been confirmed that no dumping or litter would be removed apart from that on the verge immediately adjoining the highway. If resources would allow, a deeper scavenge would be carried out on an annual basis prior to the seasonal growth. This was welcomed. (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.

(iv) Sewers. Cllr Kerfoot reported on sewage flooding at the corner of Arrowcroft Road and School Lane for the seventh consecutive year. Work had been carried out by United Utilities to sanitise the property concerned and a long term solution was to be sought. It was understood a survey of the sewerage network was to be undertaken.

(v) Flooding, Church Lane. Cllr Fisher reported that Mrs Kirk had informed of flooding from a surcharged manhole. A site inspection would be arranged by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

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. Cllr Fisher informed as to other overgrown hedges on the road.

(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) 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. Further to Cllr D Hughes expressing concern at the high branches, the advice of tree officers had been sought. The removal of the deadwood was exempt but it was recommended that a photographic record should be taken to rebut any challenge. **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 Area Maintenance Engineer.

(viii) Trees, primary school boundary. Further to Cllr Fisher informing as to the pruning and felling of trees in the school grounds adjoining the path at the rear of Orchard Croft and if these were protected. Cllr Brown, as Parish Tree Warden, would make further inquiries. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

(ix) Overgrown planting, Fox Cover. Cllr Fisher informed the planting required pruning in order to avoid obstructing the footway. It was agreed this would be carried out by Members.

(x) Hedges, Belle Vue Lane. Cllr Fisher referred to overgrown hedges on Belle Vue Lane.

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. The annual meeting of the Area Meeting had been held on Wednesday 10 June 2009. This had been attended by Cllr Fisher and Cllr Kerfoot who reported. 09/10 043

A presentation had been given on Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council's intended arrangements for local area working. The Council was pleased to note the Clerk had again been re-elected as Honorary Secretary.

13 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. Further to the Clerk informing of the wish of the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to visit each local council by October 2009 to discuss contractual and funding arrangements, a successful meeting had taken place on Thursday 16 July, 2009 with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk discussing a range of issues with Nicola McKeand who was undertaking the research. Cllr D Hughes reported this had explored 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.

(ii) Electoral Review, Cheshire West and Chester. Cllr Moulton reported, having attended a Cheshire Association of Local Councils/Boundary Committee roadshow in Winsford on Tuesday 30 June, 2009 with the Clerk. The committee had resolved that from 2011, the council should have 75 members. This was an increase of three on the present total of 72, comprising three members for each of the 24 former County Council divisions. A principal issue was whether there were to be single member or multi member wards. Responses to this stage of the consultation were due by 4 August 2009. The Clerk informed that Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council was formulating a proposal that Guilden Sutton should be included in a two member ward with Christleton and Mickle Trafford to be named "Chester Villages".

Members gave careful consideration to the issues surrounding single or multi member wards and the geographic consequences which flowed therefrom.

The Council was aware of the argument that in a single member ward, the member was more accountable than might otherwise be the case and perhaps better able to engage with the electorate. Against this, Guilden Sutton parish was fairly typical in that since 1974 the parish had been served by three principal authority members, two being elected representatives of the district council and one of the county council. The Council had generally enjoyed good relationships with the elected members of the principal authorities throughout this period and did not believe that a change to a single member ward would deliver any significant improvement on the multi member situation which had prevailed. Members were unable to point to any evidence which would suggest there had been any substantial problems either with accountability or engagement due to there being more than one representative of the principal authorities. Conversely, the Council had very recent direct experience of Cllr Bailey gaining an important and time consuming civic office as Lord Mayor and the extent to which that had substantially diminished his ability to represent constituents and raise parish issues as he would have wished. The existing multi member ward had the capacity to deal with that issue.

Similarly, the Council was aware of the arguments that warding arrangements should give roughly equal value to a vote wherever it may be cast across the borough while ensuring that geographic areas which may be considered to achieve this reflected established communities of interest. The Chester Villages proposal would retain Guilden Sutton's long established links with other parts of the former Chester City Council Christleton ward. Bringing in the immediately adjoining Mickle Trafford and District brought welcome links with a neighbouring civil parish and also a neighbouring ecclesiastical parish with whom the incumbent was shared. There was a close community of interest in that both villages were set in a particularly fragile part of the North Cheshire Green Belt, both were developed in the 1970s and both were on Chester's urban fringe with shared concerns about issues ranging from traffic to litter which arose from that. It was reasonable to conclude that the interests of constituents in both were similar and that the proposed Chester Villages ward would quickly and naturally achieve enduring cohesion.

It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Kerfoot and agreed the Council would strongly support the proposed Chester Villages ward with two members.

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

(iv) Telephone directory. Further to Cllr Parker informing of the publication of a new issue of the principal authority's telephone directory, a copy had been provided to the Clerk.

09/10 044

(v) Community Forum, Gowy and Eddisbury wards. It was noted the inaugural meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 July at 7pm for 7.30pm in Tarvin Community Centre. The following meeting would take place on Wednesday 30 September 2009.

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

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

(iii) Crime issues. A Member referred to an arrest in connection with drink driving in the parish.

(iv) Community Safety Wardens. Cllr Paterson informed of the intention of the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council community safety wardens to hold community surgeries in the rural area. It was also hoped they would attend the fête. This was welcomed.

18 Newsletter. The Clerk was to prepare an issue which would include the council's annual report.

19 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.

20 Bulb planting. Planting would take place on the parish car park bank in 2009.

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

22 Primary School. Cllr D Hughes reported that A Davies Esq had been elected chairman with M Paterson Esq as vice chairman. An excellent evening had been held for new parents.

23 Disability Discrimination Act: barrier, Hill Top Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage. **ACTION: City Cllr B Bailey.**

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 2009. It was noted the Village Fête had been very successful. This was welcomed by the Council, Members of which, with the Clerk, had staffed a display.

Declaring a prejudicial interest, Cllr D Hughes spoke under provision 12 (ii) and informed of the intention of the organisers to request the agreed contribution of £500 by the Parish Council. Cllr Hughes left the meeting.

Cllr Paterson in the Chair.

It was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Moulton and agreed that the previously agreed contribution of £500 should be made subject to the request being made in writing on behalf of the Guilden Sutton Village Fête. Cllr Fisher suggested the support of the Council should appear in promotional material for the event.

09/10 045

Cllr D Hughes in the Chair.

(iii) St John's Holiday Club. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

27 Land Registry. The Clerk reported 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. It was agreed the matter should be pursued. **Action: The Clerk.**

28 Member's information items.

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council: electoral review. Cllr Fisher commended the thoroughness of extremely useful general information about the borough provided by the Council in support of its submission.

Cheshire Rural Women's Day. Cllr Moulton referred to the Cheshire Rural Women's Day and the opportunity for the Council to nominate a woman from the Council whose efforts or achievements should be recognised. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Paterson should be nominated.

Grass cutting, A 41. Cllr Moulton expressed concern at the length of time for which sections of the A 41 were coned off to allow grass cutting.

29 Information correspondence.

ChALC/NALC: Newsletter 128; Cheshire Rural Women's Day (response due 25 September 2009); Annual meeting Thursday 22 October: booking form (response due 4 September 2009), motions (response due 31 August 2009); July update; Partial review of regional spatial strategy.

CWAC: Funding for rural community shops; Progress with actions from local councils' event; Updated telephone directory; Link meeting; Local involvement network; Electoral review; Gowy and Eddisbury Community Forum.

CPRE: How to respond to planning applications.

Clerks and Councils Direct July 2009

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.

Nil.

