

# Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 September 2010 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr P M Paterson.

Present: Cllrs A Davis, D M Fisher, D Hughes, J Hughes, M Kerfoot, W Moulton, P M Paterson.

In attendance: Cheshire West and Chester Councillors B J Bailey, H Deynem and S Parker, PCSO L Beddows, Mr Daniel Palmer.

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. An apology was received and accepted from Cllr I Brown.

(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.

There were no declarations of interest.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 July 2010. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 July 2010 where proposed by Cllr D Hughes, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed to subject to, in minute 1 (ii), Cllr D M Fisher being recorded as a member of the Guiden Sutton Community Association Executive and not as a member of the Fete Committee.

(iv) Dates of future meetings:

Mondays 4 October, 1 November, 6 December 2010. Cllr Paterson informed that proposed dates for meetings to be held in 2011 would be forthcoming at a future meeting.

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

(vi) Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vii) UK Youth Parliament. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(viii) Use of Public Speaking Time. The Clerk informed that with the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the following response had been made to Mr B Lewin who had raised the issue at Public Speaking Time at the previous meeting.

*"(i) The Council follows the protocol adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council - public speaking is simply that, there is no dialogue. The issue will be considered at the appropriate agenda item, if there is one, or more usually should be referred to the Clerk to investigate and report. Unless urgent, a significant decision, if required, cannot be taken at that meeting if there is not an appropriate agenda item as due notice has to be given.*

*"(ii) Apart from the above, it is the Council's practice that, at the discretion of the Chairman, visiting CWaC councillors, the Police and any persons appointed by the Council who are not councillors and who have a contribution to make can be invited to speak at an appropriate point and participate in any discussion.*

*"It is customary, as a courtesy, for visiting CWaC councillors, who may have contributions to make over a number of issues during a meeting, to be invited to speak, having indicated, given the value their presence offers to the conduct of the Council's business.*

10/11 062

"(iii) In this context, members of the public and persons appointed by the Council who are not councillors may contact the Clerk or any member of the Council at any time to raise issues. They do not have to await the next Council meeting".

It was noted that with the approval of the Council, the Chairman had the flexibility to vary this approach in appropriate circumstances.

## 2 Public engagement.

### (i) Public Speaking Time.

Community garden. Mr Daniel Palmer helpfully provided an update with respect to the proposal for a community garden. He informed that a number of options were available and that at the appropriate stage local residents and the Parish Council would be consulted. Mr Palmer referred to the possible relationship between the proposal and the Parish Plan. Cllr Bailey informed he had been involved in discussions and believed there would be difficulty in finding a site which would meet the approval of the village. He would report further.

Policing issues. PCSO Beddows kindly provided a comprehensive report on recent issues. PCSO Beddows referred to the Cheshire West and Chester Council community safety wardens and it was agreed their contact details (0300 123 7033) would appear in a future issue of the newsletter. Members expressed their appreciation for the informative report and it was agreed that PC Boulton should be thanked.

Members referred to the discharge of firearms in the parish, on which Cllr Deynem helpfully provided background information, noise disturbance from a clay pigeon shoot taking place in an adjoining parish which had given rise to concerns as the location was not known, a drive off from the Village Hall car park, the playing of football and substance misuse in the vicinity of the Village Hall, the speed of cyclists on the Greenway, an escape of cattle and parking issues at Guilden Sutton Primary School. A request was made for drivers to be spoken to by PCSO Beddows and this was agreed. Cllr Deynem informed that a mobile CCTV unit was available for deployment at schools where there was a parking problem.

Junction A 41/Guilden Sutton Lane. Further to Cllr Bailey advising at the previous meeting that discussions were in progress as to possible measures at the junction of the A41 and Guilden Sutton Lane to deter vehicles from double parking in the gap in the central reservation, Cllr Bailey indicated that as an initial measure it was proposed to strengthen the existing white markings.

Cllr Parker informed of a meeting of the Goway Community Forum to be held on 14 September, 2010 at Christleton High School. A decision by the Government on the proposed Chester Villages ward was expected in October. Cllr Parker also referred to traffic issues on the A 51 and the position with respect to a 30mph limit on the whole of Station Lane. It was noted there could be an increase in traffic resulting from the sale of Meadow Lea Farm following the untimely death of Mr J Graham.

(ii) Councillors' surgery. Cllr J Hughes advised that as part of the Council's aspiration to achieve Quality Parish Council status, it was proposed to reintroduce councillors' surgeries. These would take place at the Summerfield Road shops, or, by agreement, in the foyer of the Village Hall if wet, on the Saturday preceding each monthly meeting of the Parish Council. A pilot surgery had taken place on Saturday 4 September 2010 at which she had presided which had also been attended by Cllr Parker and the Clerk. This had been very successful. Issues raised had included the obstruction of the Porters Hill footway by overgrowth and the condition of the adjoining boundary wall and a request for a dog bin on the dingle path. Estimates would be sought by the Clerk for a display board to advertise each surgery in advance and for badges to signify Members' status to constituents. The preferred time was 10am to take advantage of maximum footfall at the shops. It was agreed a further surgery should be held on Saturday 2 October 2010 which would be attended by Cllrs Paterson and Kerfoot.

## 3 Planning.

### (i) New applications.

10/11506/ADV fascia and door/window signage 1-2 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW.

10/11 063

No objection had been raised to the proposal. Further to the concerns which had been expressed at the irregular rise of the modified steps from the car park, the Clerk informed he understood the applicant was in possession of a final building control certificate.

10/11567/FUL installation two air conditioning units on rear elevation at 1-2 Summerfield Road, CH3 7SW. No objection had been raised.

10/11729 two storey side and single storey rear extensions at Thorngate, Church Lane CH3 7EW. No objection had been made subject to the highways officer being satisfied adequate parking would remain following the loss of the garage. Following representations by the Council, the highway authority had requested a condition to ensure adequate parking was retained. The relevant parts of the case officer's report stated: *"The highways officer has no objection subject to a condition securing two parking spaces"*. This was followed later by: *"Given the location of the dwelling within the village and the narrow nature of the lane the highways officer considers that two parking spaces need to be retained on the site. It is unclear from the submitted plans if two parking spaces could be accommodated on the drive following the demolition of the garage. However from the site visit it appears that only one space is utilised at present and if the drive is not capable of accommodating two spaces there is sufficient space to the front of the dwelling to provide additional off street parking if required..... it is considered a condition would be unreasonable and that satisfactory provision can be made for parking on the site"*.

The Clerk informed that permission had been granted on the basis the proposal was not detrimental to highway safety.

10/11843/FUL timber framed balcony at Newhall Rise, School Lane, CH3 7EU. Following a report by Cllr D Hughes, it was agreed that no objection should be raised.

(ii) Decision notices.

10/11567/FUL installation of two air conditioning units on rear elevation at 1-2 Summerfield Road, CH3 7SW. Planning permission.

10/11729 two storey side and single storey rear extensions at Thorngate, Church Lane CH3 7EW. Planning permission. Party Wall Act advisory.

(iii) Parish Plan: progress report. Cllr Paterson reported further as to the arrangements for the launch. Drafting was in hand. Cllr Fisher referred to the proposal for a community garden and Cllr Paterson indicated that fresh issues could be taken into account. It was noted that Cheshire West and Chester Council was to hold a Parish Plan and Village Design Statement event on Thursday 7 October 2010.

(iv) Village Design Statement. There was nothing further to report at this stage other than the event minuted above. The Clerk informed the Village Design Statement for Albanley was regarded as an exemplar.

(v) Strategic Planning.

(a) Cheshire West and Chester Council, open space audit and assessment of need. See 6 (x) beneath.

(b) Gypsy and Traveller issues (i) Overview training session 13 July 2010. The Clerk informed he had unfortunately been unable to attend this session as had been intended. (ii) Drop in, Chester Town Hall, 14 July 2010. The Clerk reported he had attended this session and had obtained copies of the relevant documents which had been circulated at the training session on the previous evening. He hoped to meet officers for a general discussion at an appropriate stage. (iii) Correspondence from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. The Clerk reported the receipt of copy correspondence, dated 9 August 2010, from the Cheshire Association to Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Councils seeking information on their current position with respect to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. (iv) Adjacent parishes. The Clerk reported the receipt of information as to the position in adjacent and nearby parishes which he had circulated. Cllr Parker helpfully provided additional information on the general position.

#### 4 Quality Council issues.

(i) Training: (a) Clerk's Qualification. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman presented the Clerk with his Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Clerk thanked the Council for their support. (b) Power to Promote Well Being. At an appropriate stage, the Council would revisit the possibility of training being requested from the County Office. (c) General. Members would indicate to the Clerk should they wish to attend any remaining sessions during 2010 from the list previously circulated. **Action: All Members.** (ii) Moving Towards Quality Parish Council Status. (a) Conduct of Council business. The NALC model standing orders would be considered by the Quality Council group which now consisted of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Brown and the Clerk. (b) Work programme. An initial meeting had taken place on 21 July 2010 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. A further meeting was to be arranged by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

#### 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. Cllr D Hughes reported on a site visit which had taken place with the contractor. Weeds were to be sprayed. Cllr Fisher informed of an infestation of nettles. **Action: Noted.**

(ii) Improvement scheme. (a) Boundary treatment. The Clerk informed he had approached a contractor employed by Christleton Parish Council for an estimate. This had been received following a site meeting. Cllr D Hughes further informed that an estimate was to be provided by the Council's grounds maintenance contractor. Options would be considered at an appropriate stage.

(iii) Rear boundary wall. The Clerk informed he had approached the contractor employed by Christleton Parish Council for an estimate.

(iv) Replacement signboard. The Clerk informed he had contacted the signwriter to confirm he would be requesting the replacement to proceed. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

(vi) Discretionary rate relief. Further to the Clerk informing of the receipt of correspondence from Cheshire West and Chester Council as to a temporary increase in the amount of discretionary relief applied to business rates, the Clerk informed he had sought clarification and it appeared the car park would be eligible. This was welcomed. See also minute 9 (viii) beneath.

(vii) Boundary fencing. Cllr Fisher informed that new fencing had been erected by an adjoining occupier.

#### 6 Leisure Services

##### (i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. Cllr D Hughes reported a site visit had taken place with the grounds maintenance contractor. There was again no bag in the litter bin. This would be raised by Cllr Hughes with the contractor. **Action: Cllr D Hughes.** There was evidence the bin was being used for the deposit of canine faeces but it was not suggested that dogs were being exercised on the field. Cllr D Hughes suggested that Cheshire West and Chester Council should be requested to provide a bin in a nearby verge. This was agreed. **Action: The Clerk.** Cllr Fisher informed that the far goalmouth was badly worn but that closer to Guilden Sutton Lane was in better condition. Cllr D Hughes informed a hedge adjoining a boundary wall, for which the council was not responsible, had been cut down. **Action: Noted.**

(b) Mole infestation. Cllr Davis informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(c) State of nets. Cllr Fisher informed that some, but not all, of the ties securing the nets had been damaged by vandalism. Cllr D Hughes was authorised to purchase replacement ties of a suitable length. **Action: Cllr Hughes.**

(d) Basket ball equipment. Cllr Fisher referred to the condition of some of the welds on the basketball court mesh.

**Action: Noted.**

(ii) Children's Play Area.

(a) CCTV and CCTV protocol. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Inspections. (i) Boundary fencing. Further to the Clerk reporting a small part of the front boundary fencing had been damaged, an estimate had been sought from Messrs Deva Forge. The estimate, in the sum of £90 plus VAT, had been advised to Members and accepted on an urgent basis with the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Clerk confirmed the work had been carried out including the repainting of the section concerned. (ii) Annual statutory inspection. The Clerk referred to the late arrangements made in 2009/10 for the annual statutory inspection and suggested he should make enquiries as to the intentions for such inspections in 2010/11. This was agreed. **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 continue to be brought to the attention of Messrs Gresty. Cllr Fisher referred to the presence of brambles in the boundary hedging. **Action: Noted.**

(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 Cllr Paterson informing of low branches from trees adjoining the route, which it was noted would be the responsibility of the landowner, any comments from the Rights of Way Warden were awaited.

(b) Footpath 2. (i) Clearance and sweeping. Further to the Clerk informing he had met the Streetscene Area Manager to inspect progress towards improving the condition of this path together with the dingle steps, the current condition of the steps would be further reported together with the growth of brambles on the nearest access from Oaklands.

(c) Footpath 1. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Rights of Way Group. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

(f) Greenway. (i) It was noted that signage had been provided to the Greenway from Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk was awaiting a response to his request for leaflets with a map of the route to be provided locally and would make further inquiries. **Action: The Clerk.** (ii) Pedestrians. Further to the concern as to the increased number of cyclists and pedestrians emerging from the Park Farm access onto Guilden Sutton Lane, which it was thought would benefit from signage to warn both approaching road users and those emerging from the Greenway, it was noted that signs warning of cyclists had been provided at two locations on Guilden Sutton Lane when driving from the village. Inquiries would be made by the Clerk as to any further signage which was proposed. **Action: The Clerk.** (iii) Surface, Garners Lane. Further to Cllr Fisher informing of a view the surface of this access to the Greenway should be improved to assist those with push chairs or wheel chairs, this had been brought to the attention of the Project Officer. A response was awaited. See also minute 8 (ii) (r) beneath.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. (a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Parish Council contract 2010/11. A site meeting had taken place as minuted above. The Clerk reported he had pursued the correspondence from Messrs Rich Brothers of Rowton seeking to quote for grounds maintenance work. A response had been received and would be retained for future reference. Messrs Rich Brothers would be thanked.

(v) Public Seats. Further to damage to the seat in Wicker Lane being reported, the Clerk had inspected the seat in Guilden Sutton Lane and had requested an estimate from Messrs Gresty for the repainting thereof in addition to an estimate for repairs and repainting of the seat on Wicker Lane. This was awaited.

(vi) Fox Cover. (i) Landscaping. An approach had been made to Cheshire West and Chester Council as to the verge being included in a schedule. A response was awaited. (ii) Replacement 'no ball games' sign. The Clerk reported he had contacted the signwriter to confirm a request would be made for the work to proceed. A suitable logo had kindly been provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

(viii) Multi use games area. Cllr Kerfoot informed a questionnaire had been distributed and the outcome was awaited. In response to a question from Cllr Fisher as to out of hours use, Cllr Kerfoot indicated that at this stage, no decisions had been taken.

(ix) MBNA Chester Marathon. The Clerk informed he had received confirmation from the organisers that in 2011 the route would commence and conclude in the city centre in order to accommodate the increased entry and would not pass through Guilden Sutton.

(x) Cheshire West and Chester Council open space assessment and audit. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(xi) Community Garden. Further to Mr D Palmer kindly providing an update earlier in the meeting, Mr Palmer responded further to Members' questions and was requested to present a report for consideration at the October meeting.

## 7 Public transport.

(i) Revised services. Further to Cllr Moulton, Local Bus User Contact, informing the service was to terminate in Church Lane for a trial period from 1 August 2010, the Clerk advised he had provided flyers to Mrs Kirk for distribution in that part of the village ahead of the commencement of the service. Cllr Moulton reported that although the driver was happy to continue to Church Lane, he understood that passenger numbers were low and a meeting was to take place shortly to discuss the issue.

(ii) Moorcroft Crescent inbound bus stand. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Timetable information. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Service DB8. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

## 8 Highways.

(i) Issues with the highway authority.

The following issues covered in the response received from the Area Highways Manager remained outstanding:

### **Belle Vue Lane**

*Haunching/pot holes. Area Highways Manager will arrange for inspection of Belle Vue Lane which will attend to all Category 1 defects.*

### **Church Lane.**

*Condition of cycle route Church Lane - Cinder Lane. Raised with Streetscene Area Manager. Request for barrier to prevent reported use by motorcycles. Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

*Flooding. In carriageway at foot of Fox Cover steps. Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

## **Cinder Lane**

Overgrown hedges, Cinder Lane/condition of footway. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

## **Guilden Sutton Lane**

Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. Untidy condition reported. *Area Highways Manager to arrange for inspection*

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. *Cllr Bailey.*

Boundary sign, Guilden Sutton Lane by reservoir. Reported. Requires refixing. *Inspection organised.*

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. *Not sure what can be done in the short term. Area Highways Manager to comment further.*

Drainage issue in footway at field entrance opposite access to restricted byway. Gulley claimed to have been installed not at the lowest point. Recent flooding. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

Obstruction of footway by nettles etc at one location, brambles at the approach to the diversion from the village. Ongoing. *Some works carried out - Parish Council to confirm.*

Guilden Sutton Lane, trip hazard at the site of a fall adjoining fence (Gresty's field). No defect revealed, local Member not satisfied. *Joint site meeting required, Parish Council to arrange with K.Collins.*

Signing and lining: Guilden Sutton Lane at playing field, extend red patch "SLOW" marking to both carriageways and restore disturbed surface. *Area Highways Manager will arrange inspection.*

Bus stand opposite houses between Moorcroft Crescent and Wilding Business Estate. Growth obscuring view of approaching traffic for alighting passengers. *Area Highways Manager will arrange inspection.*

Condition of carriageway under A55 bridge.

## **Hare Lane.**

Speed of traffic, double parking in vicinity of Rugby Club. With highway authority/Police. Club understood to have issued advice re parking. *Monitor.*

## **Oaklands**

Shops area -

Concern that installation of a further dropped kerb from the shops car park to the pathway of the village hall car park is leading to vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park. *Proposal involving provision of fencing under consideration.*

Perceived defect with the more recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall. *Private land.*

Elsewhere -

Footpath 2, condition. Raised with Streetscene Area Manager. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

School access to rear of Orchard Croft. Raised with Streetscene Area Manager. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*

10/11 068

Carriageway defects on Oaklands approaching junction with School Lane at Wood Farm. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Carriageway defect in vicinity of the dell (site of previous collapse). *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

### **School Lane**

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. *Area Highways Manger to inspect and comment upon completion of inspection.*

Flooded gulleys/depressed covers in vicinity of Arrowcroft Road. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Condition of School Lane nameplate at the war memorial. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

### **Station Lane.**

Renewal of SLOW sign when leaving the village. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Speed review. *In hand.*

### **Wicker Lane**

Gully kerb, Concerns re the position of this kerb in the carriageway. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Visibility issue Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Overgrowth on corner, previously cut back by highway authority. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

Surface water running from S bend towards Wicker House. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

### **General**

Planters. Possibility of planters being provided on highway land at a central location in the village. Policy? *Detailed location to be provide by Parish Council.*

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. *Will provide further comment in due course.*

#### (iii) Current issues

(a) Speed issues. (i) Cllr Moulton reported a further lease of two sets of equipment had been negotiated. A rota was being prepared. The possibility of the speed gun being deployed by the Council had been investigated by the Clerk who confirmed the gun continued to be available to parish councils and its use was encouraged but all volunteers must be retrained by the Police. The Clerk would inquire as to training. **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 had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing to add at this stage further to Cllr Bailey informing inquiries were being made as to the intended 30mph speed limit.

(d) Speed review, Wicker Lane/Hare Lane. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

10/11 069

(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. It was noted this had been raised earlier in the meeting with PCSO Beddows. A request had been made for drivers to be spoken to.

(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 now be revisited following the completion of the alterations at the village shops.

(i) 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 had led to vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park and the perceived defect with the more recently improved ramp closer to the Village Hall, both issues had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. With respect to overriding, there was some concern at an initial suggestion by the highway authority that fencing should be provided and it was agreed that details should be sought of an alternative cycle fence.

(j) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. It was noted this was being dealt with by Cllr Bailey.

(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 had progressed 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. 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 together with the effect of trees overhanging the road had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(n) Path, Cinder Lane to Church Lane. (i) Condition. The condition of this path had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. (ii) Use by motor cycles. The complaint to the Rights of Way Warden as to the use of this path by motorcyclists had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(o) Footway, Guilden Sutton lane, obstruction by nettles, brambles and an overgrown hedge respectively. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(p) Parish boundary signs (i) Guilden Sutton Lane. The state of this sign had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. (ii) Station Lane: The highway authority had been informed the sign had slipped down the pole.

(q) Flooding, Church Lane. With respect to the surcharged manhole, the Clerk was pleased to report he had been advised by Mrs Kirk that following contact between Mrs Kirk and BT, remedial work had been completed.

(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, the issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(s) Speed limit, Station. There was nothing further to report to that minuted above.

(t) Further to Cllr Brown informing of the need to edge out the footway at Cathcart Green, it was noted this issue had been dealt with by the highway authority.

(u) Gulley kerb, Wicker Lane. The position of this kerb in the carriageway, raised by Cllr Fisher, had been referred to the Area Highway Manager whose response was minuted above. 10/11 070

(v) Planters. Further to the inquiry by Cllr Kerfoot as to the possibility of planters being provided at a central location in the village and further inquiries being made by Cllr Brown of Helsby Parish Council, the issue had been pursued by the Clerk with the highway authority whose response was minuted above. Suitable locations were thought to be at the Guilden Sutton boundary signs. The Clerk would advise the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.** Cllr Brown would advise the Clerk of the address of the web site for the supply of planters. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

(w) Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of these steps had been reported to the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.

(x) Flooding, Wicker Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(y) Subsidence, reinstatement Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of the reinstatement on this heavily trafficked section of the road was being monitored.

(z) Church Lane, Wicker Lane. Further to Mrs Kirk informing that the verge at the junction had been trimmed in an unsatisfactory manner and was untidy and that the Church Lane sign was obliterated by growth, this had been reported to the Area Highways Manager and appropriate action had been taken.

(za) School Lane. Further to the Clerk being informed by Mrs Kirk of the presence of a large *Pyrocantha* overhanging the footway on the South side of School Lane ascending Porters Hill and to her concern that much of the vegetation overhanging the footpaths on Porters Hill prevented pedestrians walking safely, appropriate action was being taken. **Action: The Clerk.**

(zb) Proposed waiting restrictions, lay bys, A41. Members had been informed by the Clerk of a proposal by the highway authority to introduce a two hour waiting restriction in the lay bys either side of the A41 close to the parish boundary to deter long term and overnight parking by school buses and heavy goods vehicles. The Parish Council had been consulted and had been asked for its views with a response date of 10 September, 2010. The Clerk advised that Cllr Parker was in support. Members expressed views for and against the proposal and it was noted there had been no complaints from people within the parish and that should restrictions be imposed, the problem could be displaced. It was proposed by Cllr Moulton, seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed on a 3 - 2 vote with two abstentions that the restrictions should be supported. The highway authority would be advised of the concerns.

(iii) Lighting. Cllr Moulton advised that lights on Guilden Sutton Lane were again obscured by tree branches. This would be reported. **Action: The Clerk.**

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Bank interest		
5 July 2010	£	1.85

Bank interest		
5 August 2010	£	2.09

Scottish Widows no2		
Interest		
1 July 2010	£	1.63

CWAC		
Lengthsman grant		
2009/10	£	656.24
1st half 2010/11	£	328.12
	£	984.36

Reimbursement of		
inspection fee	£	42.50

10/11 071

(ii) Payments:

ChALC Chairmanship2 training	£ 30.00*
Devaprint Newsletters 137,138. Annual report	£ 255.00*
Direct2Door Newsletter distribution	£ 26.95 (VAT £4.01)*
Gresty Grounds maintenance/lengthsman April/May	£ 439.50*
June	£ 244.00*
	£ 683.50*
CWAC 2nd half year business rates re car park	£ 324.00
Clerk	
Postage	£ 1.71
Photocopies 277@5p	£ 13.85
Miles 33@40p	£ 13.20
	£ 28.76

\* urgent payments arising during the recess

Proposed by Cllr D Hughes,  
Seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed.

(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank 28 July	£13,760.16
Scottish Widows no 1 2 July 2010	£20,752.93
Scottish Widows no 2 2 July 2010	£ 2,615.37

(iv) Report on contingency payments.

Budget:	£ 455.00
Payments:	£ 0.00

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

(vi) Participatory budgeting. Further to the participatory budgeting event held by West Cheshire Together at the Rural West Area Partnership Board Conference which had taken place on Wednesday 7 July 2010 at Tarvin Community Centre, the Clerk understood an application by the Holiday Club for £200 had been successful but that by Mr D Palmer for the proposed community garden had not.

(vii) Audit 2009/10. The notice of completion of audit was being displayed. **Action: The Clerk.**

(viii) Business rate relief, parish car park. Further to that minuted above, the Clerk advised he now understood the Council might benefit from relief, including the additional relief proposed during the period 1 October, 2010 to 30 September, 2011 and would make further inquiries.

#### 10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (a) Chester waste collection and recycling contract. Members were reminded that Cllr Bailey had asked to be informed of any concerns arising under the new contract. Further to a Member informing of bins being abandoned by the collection crews in positions where they blocked the footway, the issue had been referred to Cllr Bailey.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. (i) Grot spots. Members would advise the Clerk of locations at which they believed action was necessary. **Action: All Members.** (ii) Litter pickers. The Clerk was securing prices for litter pickers. **Action: The Clerk.** (iii) Contract re parish orderly scheme. The Clerk reported the receipt of the signed Grant Agreement for 2010/11 from Cheshire West and Chester Council Streetscene. (iv) Dumping. Members noted that during the summer period there had been severe dumping on Belle Vue Lane and more recently on Guilden Sutton Lane where a quantity of asbestos roofing had been tipped in a farm access. This had taken place during the late morning but no further information have been forthcoming. It was understood both incidents had been dealt with by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(iii) Dog fouling. Further to a Member referring to incidents of dog fouling where due to their age or infirmity, dog walkers were unable to poop scoop, which it was accepted could be a difficulty, a note would be included in a future issue of the Newsletter. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iv) Sewers. Further to Cllr Davis informing of a sewage issue which had arisen in Arrowcroft Road, this was being drawn to the attention of Cllr Bailey in view of relatively recent action which had been taken to remedy a similar longstanding issue in the road. **Action The Clerk.**

#### 11 Trees and Hedges.

(i) Hedges, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the increasing obstruction of the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane and at other locations in the village by overgrown hedges. It was noted that Cllr Bailey had kindly offered to help with any serious problems. A note would also be included in the Newsletter.

(ii) Canopy, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the response, minuted above, which had been received from the Area Highways Engineer as to the issue raised by Mr Jackson.

(iii) Hedges, Porters Hill. The need for overgrown hedges on Porters Hill, referred to above, to be pruned would be raised with the Area Highways Manager. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iv) 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.**

(v) Trees Wicker Lane/Church Lane. Appropriate action had now been taken by the highway authority with the assistance of Mrs Kirk.

(vi) Hedge, opposite play area. A request would be made to Cheshire West and Chester Council for this to be cut. **Action: The Clerk.**

(vii) Hedge, off Belle Vue Lane. Further to Cllr Fisher informing of the proposal by an adjoining occupier to remove a length of hedge adjoining footpath 2 and to plant a replacement of native species, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(viii) Sycamore, Memorial Garden. Further to the Tree Warden and the Clerk informing they had been alerted to a substantial branch falling from the tree, a site inspection by Tree Officers had now taken place to inform as to the future of the tree. Indicative quotations were being sought for felling and for reduction. **Action: The Clerk.**

(ix) Trees off Hill Top Road. In the absence of the Tree Warden, there was nothing to report.

(x) Trees adjoining footpath 2. Further to the concerns expressed to Cllr Paterson, the Clerk informed the trees concerned had been inspected by Tree Officers. It was thought other trees in the dingle might pose a greater threat to the safety of the public footpath and an approach to the landowner, who on a previous occasion had been amenable, would be considered.

(xi) Trees, Oaklands. The Clerk informed the Tree Warden had been approached by an occupier on Oaklands concerned that the cause of a highway tree dying back on the other side of the road might be a fungus which might affect an Oak close to her own property. The Clerk advised the tree had been inspected by Tree Officers and the cause of death was damage. This was to be brought to the attention of the highway authority.

(xii) Trees, Station Lane. A Member referred to the felling of trees. The Clerk informed of his understanding that Tree Officers had prior notification.

#### 12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. (i) Date of future meeting. It was noted the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 September, 2010 in HQ. (ii) County Association Annual meeting, 21 October 2010, Middlewich Civic Hall. It was noted that motions for the annual meeting had been due by 3 September 2010 and Members proposing to attend should inform the Clerk by 9 September 2010. **Action: All Members.** (iii) Pay settlement 2010/11 and 2011/12. Details of the pay settlement for 2010/11 and 2011/12, which had been received from the County Office, were referred to the Chairman. (iv) Cheshire Rural Womens Day 18 October, 2010. The Clerk reported the receipt of a nomination form. It was agreed that on this occasion no nomination would be made.

#### 13 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(i) Funding for local councils. Funding for local councils. The Clerk informed he had kindly been invited by the Chairman of Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council to join a meeting between that council and the principal authority to discuss this issue. Members would wish to note it was now the intention there would be one to one negotiations with each parish based on mapped proposals which would indicate the frequency of service delivery proposed for individual areas. This would be accompanied by a costed menu of optional add-ons.

(ii) Electoral Review, Cheshire West and Chester. Further to that minuted above, the Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 13 July, 2010, of a summary of the Local Government Boundary Commission's report setting out its final recommendations for Cheshire West and Chester which included the proposal for a Chester Villages ward to include Guilden Sutton. If accepted by Parliament, the new electoral arrangements would come into force at the next elections for Cheshire West and Chester in 2011.

(iii) Clerk's Group. Further to the Clerk informing he had been invited to join a Clerks' 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.

(iv) Maintenance of Churchyards and Burial Grounds. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 6 August 2010, of an application form to enable grant assistance to be sought for the maintenance of the churchyard at St John's during 2010/11. This was being progressed.

(v) Goway Community Forum 14 September 2010. Further to that minuted above, the Clerk reported the receipt of advice of this forum, taking place at Christleton High School at 6.30pm for 7pm. Members were reminded the meeting, chaired by Cllr Parker, provided an opportunity to share views on important local issues that affected the neighbourhood and to talk to local ward councillors.

(vi) Town and Parish Councils Seminar 14 July 2010. This seminar had been attended by the Chairman and Clerk. Copies had been obtained of Streetscene service standards proposed by the authority. As minuted above, the event had included a drop in on Gypsy and Traveller issues prior to the formal business. It was noted a further review was to be held on 15 September 2010.

(vii) Ten Year Capital Vision consultation launch, 21 July 2010. The Chairman and Vice Chairman reported having attended this event with the Clerk.

(viii)  
) Parish Plan and VDS event Thursday 7 October 2010. There was nothing further to report to that minuted above.

14 Cheshire Community Action. (i) Cheshire Community Pride Competition Further to the comments by Mr R Hibbert, the Clerk had obtained a copy of the entry forms for the Cheshire Community Pride Competition 2010 which he would pass to Mr Hibbert for information. (ii) Inter Village Quiz. The Clerk informed of the receipt of a formal announcement from Cheshire Community Action giving notice of the quiz for 2010/11. This would be referred to Mr Christmas.

**Action: The Clerk.** (iii) County Playing Fields Association. The Clerk informed the annual meeting would be held on Thursday 19 October 2010 at 10.30am.

15 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

16 Health. There were no action items to report.

17 Policing.

(i) Western Police Area Question Time. Councillors D Hughes and Moulton reported on the meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2010 in the Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port. It was noted that police community support officers could now engage in Speedwatch campaigns. Future meetings would take place on Tuesday 11 January 2011 in the Memorial Hall, Chester Way, Northwich and on Thursday 20 January 2011 at St Mary's Centre, off Castle Street, Chester.

(ii) Crime. There was nothing further to report to that minuted above.

(iii) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. There was nothing further to report to that minuted above.

18 Newsletter. The Clerk reported he was preparing a further issue. An approach had been made to the publishers of the new Gowy Gazette as to the newsletter being circulated with that publication.

19 Memorial Garden. There was nothing further to report at this stage other than that minuted above re the Sycamore.

20 Bulb planting. (i) General. It was agreed that 2 no bags of mixed daffodils should be ordered. **Action: The Clerk.**  
(ii) Planters. See minute 8 (ii) above.

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

22 Primary School. Cllr D Hughes reported.

23 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.

24 Railway fencing, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

25 Community events: applications for grant. It was agreed that the groups which had successfully applied for grants in Summer 2010/11 should be reminded of the need to submit invoices to enable payment.

26 Land Registry. Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt 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.**

10/11 075

27 Cheshire Landscape Trust. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

28 Network Rail communications mast. Cllr Moulton informed there was nothing further to report at this stage.

29 Guilden Sutton Methodist Church. The Chairman reported she had attended the final service to be held at the church which had taken place on Sunday 5 September 2010.

30 Member's information items.

Meadow Lea Farm. Further to that minuted above, Cllr Davis informed further of the sale of Meadow Lea Farm.

Agricultural machinery, Wicker Lane. Cllr Moulton referred to the particular difficulty encountered by motorists towing trailers should they meet large farm equipment on the narrow section of Wicker Lane and find it necessary to reverse. It was hoped the drivers of such machinery would be co-operative.

31 Information correspondence.

Planning: Examination in Public Report on partial review of regional spatial strategy; NWDA Future North West.

ChALC/NALC: NALC Events Bulletin; Possible postponement of the 2011 elections; Community Right to Build; Fire and Rescue Service, opportunity to provide feedback; Play Area inspections; E Bulletin; Training Opportunities; Progress with the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites; Consultation on capping and local referendums; 2009 annual meeting motions, update for member councils; Parish Council Area Programme Board representatives, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Spatial Planning News; Funding Fair, Winsford, 21 October 2010; Planning enforcement E mail address; Broxton Community Forum, Age Concern Meeting 9 August 2010; Rural West Area Partnership Board Quarterly Report; Mickle Trafford Community Forum 21 July 2010; Partnership Bulletin nos 18 and 19; Request for annual reports.

CPRE: Fieldwork August 2010, Countryside Voice Summer 2010.

Policing: Rural Inspector's updates; Homewatch information from partner agencies.; On the Grapevine July 2010.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection Workshop.

Link Up: Faith Sector Audit.

Clerks and Councils Direct September 2010

No Need for Nuclear campaign.

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

To exclude the public and press for the remaining part of the meeting pursuant to Section 100 (A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that discussions may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

Nil.

