

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010/11

2010/11 has again been an extremely busy period for the Parish Council on behalf of the local community.

At the annual meeting of the Council in May 2010, it was proposed by Cllr I Brown, seconded by Cllr D M Fisher that Cllr P M Paterson should be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, Cllr Paterson was elected unanimously. Cllr Paterson thanked Members for their consideration and expressed the Council's appreciation to Cllr D Hughes for his chairmanship and to the Clerk for his efforts during the previous 12 months.

It was proposed by Cllr W Moulton, seconded by Cllr Fisher that Cllr J Hughes should be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, Cllr J Hughes was elected unanimously. Cllr J Hughes thanked Members for their consideration.

The following representatives/attendees were appointed to outside bodies:

(a) Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Chester Area Meeting (three representatives). It was agreed that Cllrs Paterson, J Hughes 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.

(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 It was agreed that Cllrs Paterson and J Hughes should be the Council's nominated representatives. The Clerk stressed that as many Members who so wished could attend.

(f) Cheshire Police Authority Chester Have Your Say Meeting. It was agreed that Cllrs Moulton and D Hughes should be nominated as the Council's representatives. The Clerk stressed that as many Members who so wished could attend.

Appointment of office holders.

(a) Parish Paths Warden. It was agreed that Brian Lewin Esq should be invited to continue. During the year the title was amended to Rights of Way Warden to more accurately reflect the responsibilities.

(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 Moulton should be invited to continue.

Following the elections held on 1 May, 2008 for the new Cheshire West and Chester unitary authority, which succeeded Cheshire County Council and Chester City Council on 1 April, 2009, Guilden Sutton, as part of the Gowy ward, is represented until May 2011 by our two previous city councillors Brian Bailey and Stuart Parker (Con) and by Cllr Hugo Deynem (Con).

The Council continues to keep in touch with Mr Daniel Palmer, one of the two Cheshire West and Chester representatives to the Youth Parliament, who resides within the parish. Mr Palmer has been encouraged to keep in touch with the Council on village matters or other issues he feels he may wish to raise.

During the year, Cllr D Hughes was nominated to continue as the Council's community governor nomination to the governing body of Guilden Sutton Church of England Controlled Primary School.

The Council has continued in membership of a wide range of outside bodies including the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, the CPRE and the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society.

Guilden Sutton again provided the Honorary Secretary (The Clerk) of the Chester Area Meeting of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Monthly meetings have been held throughout the year, apart from August, together with site meetings. There have been extensive consultations on planning applications which have properly taken a great deal of time.

The Council is pleased that members of the public continue to take advantage of public speaking time which precedes each monthly meeting and raise a range of issues.

Members and the Clerk have attended a wide range of conferences and meetings held by Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire Community Action, the CPRE, the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, the Audit Commission and the Cheshire Police Authority. These meetings bring valuable information to the parish to assist the Council in the conduct of its business and enable Members to make useful contacts with Members and officers of other authorities. Members and the Clerk have also undertaken training which will assist the Council's aspiration to achieve Quality Council status. During the year, the Clerk gained the necessary Certificate in Local Council Administration and the Council hopes it will be possible to submit an application for Quality Council status in the near future.

The Council and the Clerk devoted considerable time during the year to engaging with the new Cheshire West and Chester Council as it developed its new structure and working methods, particularly as these affect local councils. Guilden Sutton is part of the Rural West Area Partnership Board, which stretches from the Dee Estuary to Shropshire although local engagement is achieved through the Gowry Community Forum of which Cllr Parker is Chairman.

It is worth noting that with the changing pace of localism, the relationships between Cheshire West and Chester Council and Town and Parish Councils in the borough will change as will the structures for achieving local engagement and the delivery of services. This will undoubtedly require considerable input from both Members and the Clerk. The Council responded to a detailed scrutiny consultation on the issue and the response appears in full as an appendix.

During the year, the Council considered a wide range of consultations by Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire Community Action and the Cheshire Police Authority and responded where appropriate.

Further to the electoral review of Cheshire West and Chester, reported to this meeting last year, Parliament subsequently approved the recommendation that Guilden Sutton should be included in a new Chester Villages ward represented by two members. This had been strongly supported by the Council. The new ward, which will apply for the borough council elections to be held on a Thursday 5 May 2011, will have 6,721 electors based on 2008 figures and comprises Christleton, Littleton, Guilden Sutton, Rowton, Cotton Abbots, Waverton, Cotton Edmunds, Hoole Village, Mickle Trafford, Bridge Trafford, Picton and Wimbolds Trafford.

All eight seats on the Parish Council will be up for election the same day and nominations closed at noon today (Monday 4 April 2011). They are due to be published by the Returning Officer by noon on Wednesday 6 April 2011.

Turning to financial matters and the budget for 2011/12, the RFO submitted updated statements of income and expenditure to 31 December 2010, an updated summary of budget variances and the expected position with each at 31 March 2011 and a forecast out turn based on anticipated expenditure and proposals included within the 2010/11 budget. These had been considered at the annual budget meeting between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and RFO together with restrictions on public expenditure due to take effect from 2011/12 onwards and the proposed council tax freeze proposed by Cheshire West and Chester Council. It was noted the restrictions did not apply directly to Town and Parish Councils but Members remained very conscious of the financial climate affecting constituents.

Prior to the budget meeting, Members had the opportunity to consider earlier papers and to come forward with any discrepancies or omissions or proposals for expenditure in 2011/12. The Chairman informed that for the purposes of discussion, it was proposed to maintain the overall budget for the fourth successive year at £18,764 within which alterations had been made to a number of heads to reflect the economic situation, actual spending and to better reflect the actual situation. There was also an aspiration to maintain the precept at the level set for 2010/11, to reflect the economic situation, subject to the loss of the last of the former Chester City Council grants amounting to £645 per annum which had been applied towards the cost of the lengthsman service. This is visited in further detail beneath.

On that basis, the precept would increase to £16,423 from £15,778 with the increase allowing for the loss of the double taxation grant. This increase, amounting to £1 per annum for an average band D property within the parish, was agreed by the Council. It was noted the weekly council tax paid by an average band D property for the Parish Council would remain under 50p compared with the total weekly council tax bill for an average property, excluding the Parish Council, of £28.

The Council believes this represents good value for money but remains fully committed to spending council tax payers' money wisely and to securing grants towards expenditure wherever this is possible.

It is worth noting that with the ready assistance of officers at Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Parish Council, which pays business rates on the parish car park in Church Lane, was not only able to take advantage of a temporary national reduction in the amount of business rates to be paid, but secured a rebate dating back to 2007 which led to a substantial refund to the Parish Council of £1,382.47p. A grant of £350 was also awarded by Cllr S Parker from his Members Budget towards the replacement of signage at the parish car park, Church Lane and in Fox Cover. The Council also market tested its insurance policy and secured a premium reduction of 30%, in the region of £450, by transferring the business elsewhere.

The new unitary authority finds it cannot continue to alleviate the long standing double taxation anomaly whereby, for example, council taxpayers in Guilden Sutton directly fund the cost of the provision of the children's play area and the parish playing field in addition to making a contribution to similar facilities in Grosvenor Park and Hoole. At an earlier stage, this disbenefit was estimated at £3.70 per head. The new council argues that savings to council taxpayers in Chester District arising from averaging out council tax across the new authority's area more than compensate for the loss of this grant which had risen to almost £2,500 for Guilden Sutton.

Historically annual expenditure has been rising as additional services and facilities have been provided and other costs have increased, including those of the Clerk whose terms and conditions remain under review. The Council aims to have a balanced budget in order to build up reserves for major expenditure such as any future replacement of the equipment in the children's play area and similar major projects such as the purchase of a children's playing field.

The Council is pleased to report it again achieved a clean audit of its accounts.

A wide range of issues have been dealt with during the year. The Council is very aware of its responsibility to speak out for local interests, for example in responding to consultations and this is reflected in its very detailed monthly agenda. All issues, both large and small, are considered equally.

With local planning, there were few difficult issues and a fewer number of planning applications than usual. The Council has, as always, taken a great deal of care to ensure that all aspects are carefully considered and fairly discussed, including the views of both applicants and neighbours, before a decision is reached. It is also worth noting that the Council is also consulted on planning applications on or near the Parish boundaries where these would affect Guilden Sutton.

The Council is fully supporting the group which is pursuing a parish plan for the village.

The Council has recently been advised the local planning authority is moving to paperless consultation which has raised the question of how effectively adjoining occupiers can be consulted in the absence of large scale plans. Training has been offered to Members and Clerks and further sessions are planned before the system is fully introduced. The change is intended to take advantage of the local planning authority's new planning website which enables, for example, all applications in Guilden Sutton and their attached documentation, including decisions, to be tracked. Other existing services including the ability to speak to a duty planning officer and to visit the planning service in Chester to inspect planning files will continue.

So far as strategic planning is concerned, the Local Plan for Chester District, which has been "saved" to the new unitary authority in the interim, includes policies to control development in Green Belt villages such as Guilden Sutton. The Council believes that continued vigilance to protect the Green Belt is essential, as it will be recalled that at an earlier stage in the plan, representations were made for land at Guilden Sutton Lane to be allocated as a business park and for 1,600 new houses to be built between Guilden Sutton and Littleton. Cheshire West and Chester Council is drawing up its own Local Development Framework and the Parish Council will consider the proposals carefully and any impact they will have on Guilden Sutton.

In line with its approach of protecting the Green Belt, the Council objected to proposals for a caravan and camping site at Rose Farm, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford.

New housing completions are being allowed to return to their historic, higher level and the Government does not now apply an upper limit to the amount of new housebuilding which can take place. Cheshire West and Chester is designated as a housing growth point.

A large number of local highway matters have remained under consideration. The Council remains disappointed that a number of motorists exiting Guilden Sutton Lane at the junction with the A 41 ignore the intention that the gap in the central reservation is suitable to allow only one vehicle at a time to turn right into the main road, causing problems for themselves, approaching traffic and the vehicle already waiting. The Council hopes that all motorists using the junction will see the sense of exercising a little patience given the previous difficulties caused by inappropriate manoeuvres have not been entirely eradicated. At the request of the Council, possible measures are under consideration by the highway authority. At an earlier stage, the highway authority indicated that any right turn ban and/or closure of the gap in the central reservation would 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. The possibility of introducing traffic signals could not be justified on accident savings grounds.

The Council has previously requested the highways and transportation local joint committee for Chester to reduce the speed limit on the A41 to 50mph and provide street lighting from the Hoole Roundabout to Guilden Sutton Lane to improve conditions at the junction. Apart from the road being included in a county wide review of speed limits, there has been no progress.

The speed of traffic particularly on Guilden Sutton Lane, School Lane, Wicker Lane and Oaklands remains a concern and the possibility has previously arisen of a speed campaign in the village. This will be revisited at an appropriate stage. Councillors have previously taken advantage of training with new radar equipment and sites for its use have been assessed although no sessions have been possible. Under such a scheme, details are taken of motorists exceeding the limit and police action follows if the same drivers are detected by the police on a future occasion.

In the meantime, further sessions have been held with the Speed Indicator Device and the Council remains disappointed at the proportion of vehicles which are driven at speeds exceeding the limit. The data is referred to both the highway authority and the police.

More recently, the Council has supported Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council in seeking a 30mph limit on Station Lane in view of the increased use of the road by cyclists, horses and pedestrians using the Millennium Greenway and is pleased this has been successful.

Our Clerk addressed the former highways and transportation committee on proposals for a 30mph limit on Guilden Sutton Lane which have yet to progress although at the request of the Council the issue is again under review.

The Council narrowly supported proposals to introduce waiting restrictions in the laybys on the A41 close to Guilden Sutton Lane but expressed concern the restrictions might displace long term parking to nearby roads which were not so restricted.

Parking problems in connection with school traffic on Arrowcroft Road and Hill Top Road continue to be closely monitored. Work was carried out by the highway authority to deal with surface water flooding on Wicker Lane, which had led to icy conditions in cold weather, but this has not been entirely successful and is being kept under review.

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Mr Stuart Arden, Tile Farm were thanked for their efforts in dealing with the snowfall during the winter.

These are examples of a large number of highway issues within the parish which have been referred to the highway authority following the attendance of the Area Highways Manager at a meeting of the Council in February 2009. These are detailed in an appendix together with the most recent response from the highway authority.

Street lighting faults continue to be reported although in the last 12 months these have been fewer than usual. Faults can be reported by any resident at any time by telephoning the number and road name of the light concerned to the highway authority on 0300 123 7036 or through the Cheshire West and Chester Council web site.

Members maintain a close interest in bus services serving Guilden Sutton. There was disappointment that an extension of the service to Church Lane on a trial basis failed due to lack of patronage despite local publicity.

The Council is pleased the children's playing field, which is rented from a private landowner, continues to be a well used village amenity.

Guilden Sutton continues to be deficient in all aspects of open space provision and any improvement in the position hinges crucially on land becoming available. The Council would be pleased to hear from landowners who might be able to help. Cheshire West and Chester Council would then be able to assist with help and advice as to the funding of the project.

It was reported last year that the borough council has appointed specialist sport and leisure consultants to undertake an open space audit and assessment across the borough to update the studies undertaken by the previous authorities. The assessment aimed to identify the needs of the public across the local authority and to map out the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision in order to prioritise areas for improvement and development. The intention was to understand local issues so they could be addressed more effectively. The Council benefited from an extremely detailed discussion with the consultants in April 2010 with reference to issues in Guilden Sutton but a promised report has yet to appear.

Further to Cllr Kerfoot referring to the possible provision of a multi use games area being provided at the primary school, the Council has continued to receive updates on the progress of the project. Any support from the Parish Council would be determined as part of the budget process. It is expected that an application would be made for a grant from the Council.

It is now some years since the children's play area benefited from a significant uplift. The condition of the equipment and the safety surfacing receives constant attention. The Council has sought advice on the action it should take in closing the play area in the event of severe weather.

Regular basic inspections are carried out on an informal basis by Members of the Council, one of whom has received basic training in this aspect. A statutory annual inspection is carried out by an independent inspector who provides a detailed report.

During the year the Council was made aware of a proposal for a community garden in Fox Cover. It was noted that residents of Fox Cover wished the amenity area to remain as such and the Council made it clear it would expect any such proposal to be the subject of detailed consultation with adjoining occupiers and with the wider community.

Litter continues to be a problem and during 2010/11 the Parish Council's contractor was paid to give the play area weekly attention by 3pm on Monday afternoon to deal with any weekend arisings. A litter bin is available very close by and the Council hopes this will encourage children and their parents to dispose of their litter in this manner.

Revised borough wide Streetscene standards were introduced by Cheshire West and Chester Council on 1 April 2011. These were the subject of discussions during the Autumn between the Parish Council and officers and a more recent site meeting.

At the time of writing it remained unclear as to how these would fit in with the lengthsman service provided by the Parish Council's contractor in the high footfall area involving the Village Hall car park, the childrens' play area and the adjoining school access and verge. The Council will closely monitor the position and take any necessary action.

Public footpaths are seen by the Council as an important part of village life and Members would wish to thank the Parish Rights of Way Warden, Mr Brian Lewin for his work. New volunteers are always welcome and the Council is pleased the Parish Paths Group has been reformed. The extension of the Millennium Greenway to Mickle Trafford, with a link to Guilden Sutton Lane has been included in the group's remit. The need for additional signage at the junction of Garners Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane to warn both users of the Greenway and traffic on Guilden Sutton Lane has been raised with the highway authority.

It may be recalled the Parish Council opposed the proposal by Cheshire County Council to upgrade the status of public footpath No. 7, the green lane on the boundary of Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford parishes, to a byway open to all traffic on the basis of historical evidence dating back to earlier centuries. The Parish Council continues to monitor the character and condition of the route which, with Garners Lane, is designated as a restricted byway with access rights for pedestrians, cyclists and horses.

The Millennium Greenway and roads within the parish were used for the inaugural MBNA Chester Marathon held on 31 May 2010. Despite arrangements by the organisers, traffic management issues caused considerable inconvenience for residents. This will not recur as the run will follow a different route, commencing in the city centre, in 2011 and future years.

The Council has continued to press the borough council for improvements to the standard of maintenance of the dingle path and steps at the rear of Oaklands, the pedestrianised length of Cinder Lane from Church Lane to Cinder Lane and the fieldside footway and hedges in Cinder Lane, all of which are part of the Longster Trail. The Council believes that these routes, along with the school access at the rear of Orchard Croft, should be included in an appropriate maintenance schedule.

The Council believes that trees play a vital part in the village environment and would wish to thank Cllr Brown, and Mr Alan Young, the parish tree wardens, for their efforts.

The Council's newsletter continues to appear and has now reached its 141st issue. Members would be pleased to hear comments as to its value in helping the Council's communications within the Parish.

The three parish noticeboards at Guilden Sutton Lane, opposite the Summerfield Road shops and at the car park on Church Lane continue to be well used

Due to its proximity to the urban area, the parish suffers from a great deal of indiscriminate dumping of refuse, particularly in Belle Vue Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane. This continues to be a serious concern. The same applies to tipping in the dingle at the rear of Oaklands. Such action is deprecated by the Council which believes that residents should appreciate the good environment the village is fortunate to enjoy. It is emphasised that action will only be taken by the local authority to remove litter from flat verges adjoining the highway.

The Council would be pleased to receive views on the Parish's entry in the Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition having again decided there was insufficient support to participate in 2011. Marks in earlier years, although no worse than average, had highlighted that a number of aspects needed to be improved including the extent of community involvement.

The Council remains concerned at the degree of dog fouling within the village, particularly on the footpath leading to the primary school and the dingle footpath. This is a totally unnecessary problem and the Council hopes that the small minority of dog owners concerned would feel more able to play their part in tackling the problem. Additional dog bins have been provided in the parish by the warden. Cheshire West and Chester Council has recently pointed out that litter bins can also be used for the reception of canine faeces.

PC Mal Baker, who had served the parish for a number of years, retired during 2010/11 and the Council was delighted to welcome back PC Rob Boulton with PCSO Lyam Beddows who have established police surgeries at the Summerfield Road shops.

Generally Guilden Sutton is seen as a relatively peaceful village although there have in the past been isolated instances of anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the play area and the Village Hall. The upgraded CCTV equipment on the Village Hall is thought to have a beneficial effect. When incidents arise, a poster is displayed in the Post Office containing appropriate advice or information. Contact details for PC Boulton and PCSO Beddows, together with their monthly reports, appear in the Post Office window and also on village noticeboards.

The Council continues to embrace information technology. A significant and increasing proportion of the Clerk's contact with Members and with the principal authorities and other organisations and individuals has been carried out through e-mail for a number of years. Under the leadership of previously Cllr Fisher, and more recently Mr Brian Lewin, the village web site has been further developed and offers an ever increasing range of information about the Council and the community, attracting praise from the this country and overseas.

Civic duties have included the laying of the customary wreath on Remembrance Sunday in memory of the fallen and attendance at the Lord Mayor of Chester's Civic Service. The Council was sad to hear of the death of Mr Philip "Pip" Gresty of Wood Farm who, as part of Messrs Gresty, had provided grounds maintenance and lengthsman services in the village for many years. Members and the Clerk attended the funeral.

During 2005/06, the Council spent a considerable amount of time considering provision for youth. Illustrative proposals were on display for comment at a community drop in. The Council was pleased to hear from young people themselves and also took account of representations made by residents that any proposals should be preceded by consultation. The issue of provision for youth is set against the backdrop that the Parish Council controls no suitable land itself. At an early stage, the Council agreed the use of the then City Council owned amenity areas at the dell and Fox Cover should be discounted as unsuitable, having taken appropriate advice from the City Council as landowner. No further progress is possible at the present time given the lack of suitable sites. The provision of facilities is an aspiration within the emerging parish plan.

Despite its busy agenda the Council strives to keep in touch with village life and what is important to people in Guilden Sutton. In addition to public speaking time at each meeting of the Council, regular surgeries are held at the Summerfield Road shops at 10am on the Saturday preceding the Council's monthly meeting. During the year the Council made further grants towards the cost of the summer holiday club organised by St John's Church and to the village fete.

The Council was pleased that following the closure of Guilden Sutton Methodist Church in September 2010, the church remained available for the annual Remembrance Day service. The Chairman attended the final service to be held in the chapel, sadly closed due to a dwindling congregation.

In conclusion, the Council would wish to thank Cheshire West and Chester Council, our local councillors Brian Bailey, Stuart Parker and Hugo Deynem and Mr Stephen Mosley MP for their unfailing help and support during the year.

Inevitably an annual report passes over the great deal of routine, day to day activities by the Council which taken together contribute greatly to the well being of the community. I would therefore pay tribute to the Council and our Clerk for its hard work during the last 12 months and believe the parish is fortunate that Members have felt able to come forward with their time to serve the community.

**Cllr Trisha Paterson
Chairman.**

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Annual report 2010/11.

Procedural matters.

1 People.

At the annual meeting of the Council held on 10 May 2010, it was proposed by Cllr I Brown, seconded by Cllr D M Fisher that Cllr P M Paterson should be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, Cllr Paterson was elected unanimously. Cllr Paterson thanked Members for their consideration and expressed the Council's appreciation to Cllr D Hughes for his chairmanship and to the Clerk for his efforts during the previous 12 months.

It was proposed by Cllr W Moulton, seconded by Cllr Fisher that Cllr J Hughes should be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, Cllr J Hughes was elected unanimously. Cllr J Hughes thanked Members for their consideration.

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During the year, Cllr D Hughes was nominated to continue as the Council's community governor nomination to the governing body of Guilden Sutton Church of England Controlled Primary School.

The Council has continued in membership of a wide range of outside bodies including the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, the CPRE and the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society.

Guilden Sutton again provided the Honorary Secretary (The Clerk) of the Chester Area Meeting of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Further to the General Election held on 6 May 2010, the Clerk reported Mr Stephen Mosley had been elected as MP for the City of Chester vice Mrs C M Russell. It was agreed that Mr Mosley should be congratulated and that Mrs Russell should be thanked for her help to the Council since 1997.

2 Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting 2010.

Public access. Further to Cllr Fisher referring to the complaint by Mrs G Fisher that the doors of the Village Hall had been locked at the time of the commencement of the meeting, preventing entry by some members of the public which it was noted was necessitated by the presence of children within the building at that time, Cllr D Hughes, as Chairman of Guilden Sutton Community Association, subsequently informed an improved bell system was to be installed.

3 Declarations of interest.

12 April:

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being a member of the Executive of Guilden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

Cllr D M Fisher declared a personal interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being a member of the Executive of Guilden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

Cllr D Hughes declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being Chairman of the Executive of Guilden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

10 May

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Cllr D Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW by virtue of being Chairman of the Executive of Guilden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

Cllr D M Fisher declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 10/11027/FUL rear extension to existing detached garage at 5 The Dell CH3 7ST by virtue of being the applicant.

All remaining Members declared a personal interest in planning application 10/11027/FUL rear extension to existing detached garage at 5 The Dell CH3 7ST by virtue of being known to the applicant

7 June

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

12 July

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr D M Fisher declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the 2010 Fete as a member of the fete committee.

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal interest in planning application 10/11567/FUL installation of two air conditioning units on rear elevation at 1-2 Summerfield Road, CH3 7SW as Chair of Guilden Sutton Community Association, an adjoining landowner.

6 September

NIL

4 October

Cllr J Hughes declared a personal interest in planning application 10/12100/EXT extension of time to implement permission 07/00241/FUL for detached dwelling on land at the rear of The Vicarage, Wicker Lane, CH3 7EL as a resident of Wicker Lane.

1 November

Cllr P M Paterson declared a personal interest in the part 2 item relating to property boundaries and parking entitlements at the Village Hall as a member of the Executive of Guilden Sutton Community Association.

Cllr D Hughes declared a personal interest in the part 2 item relating to property boundaries and parking entitlements at the Village Hall as a member of the Executive of Guilden Sutton Community Association.

6 December

NIL

10 January

NIL

7 February

NIL

7 March

NIL

4 Training

The Council has an aspiration to achieve Quality Status. During the year the Clerk was congratulated on achieving the necessary Certificate in Local Council Administration and the necessary portfolio for Quality Status is being compiled. Members and the Clerk also attended a range of training sessions including an overview of Gypsy and Traveller issues.

Community Engagement

1 Public Speaking Time

12 April

Cllr S Parker, Cheshire West and Chester Council, informed of a number of borough council issues. Cllr Parker responded to questions from Members and was thanked by the Chairman for his attendance.

10 May

Mr M S J Roberts referred to public transport issues and was thanked by the Chairman for his attendance.

7 June

Mr C Avery spoke in support of a proposed application by the fete committee for a grant towards the cost of the 2010 fete and indicated a contribution by the Council would be welcome.

Cllr S Parker informed that Station Lane did not meet the guidelines for a 30mph limit. Concerns remained at the entrance to the Greenway. It was agreed that a letter of support should be sent to the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk.** Cllr D Hughes thanked Cllr Parker for his skilful chairing of the inaugural meeting of the new Goway Community Forum.

Cllr B J Bailey informed of an improvement in the condition of certain footways within the parish following work carried out by Cheshire West and Chester Council. Cllr Bailey advised 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. Inquiries were being made as to the intended 30mph speed limit on Guilden Sutton Lane.

12 July

Mr B Lewin. Mr Lewin addressed the Council on its approach to the use of public speaking time. Further to the comments by Mr B Lewin as to public speaking, the Chairman indicated her wish for public speaking to remain flexible although within the generally accepted convention it was not an opportunity for dialogue. It was noted there were other means by which residents could so engage with the Council. It was agreed the Clerk would respond to Mr Lewin as follows:

(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.

"(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.

PC R Boulton/PCSO L Beddows. PC Boulton introduced himself to the Council on his return to the parish together with PCSO Lyam Beddows. PC Boulton intended to ensure a consistent presence in the community and informed the Homewatch agenda was to be rejuvenated.

Parking issues at the school were visited. It was noted the contact telephone number for non urgent calls to officers at the Mickle Trafford Police Office is 0845 458 6394.

Cllr D Hughes thanked PC Boulton for his attendance at the Fete for which he had been very grateful.

Cllr B J Bailey. 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 he was to meet the highway authority on Wednesday 14 July 2010.

Cllr S Parker indicated a decision by the Boundary Committee on the proposed Chester Villages ward was expected shortly.

6 September

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.

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 Gowy 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.

4 October

Cllr Parker informed the outcome of the national comprehensive spending review would be known on Wednesday 20 October 2010. Cheshire West and Chester Council hoped it would then have a clearer idea of its future funding. Cllr Parker referred to proposals to harmonise Streetscene standards across the borough but accepted there were issues to be clarified. The bid for a 30mph limit on Station Lane had been successful, although its implementation was dependent on finance. Cllr Parker believed that farm traffic on Station Lane would increase following the change in ownership of Meadow Lea Farm. The possibility of a 40mph limit on Wicker Lane at a future stage was noted. Cllr Parker further advised of his view that the most recent results from the use of the speed indicator device demonstrated the extent of the speeding issue in the village. The Clerk informed he had revisited the proposed 30mph limit on Guilden Sutton Lane with the highway authority.

Cllr B J Bailey informed of a proposal to replace antennas on one of the installations at the Guilden Sutton Lane reservoir site in the Spring of 2011. There would be no increase in the overall height.

1 November

Mr Brian Lewin, Public Rights of Way Warden, referred to the bank account in the name of the Parish Paths Group and informed the signatories needed to be reconsidered and/or the return of the funds to the Parish Council. He referred to unsatisfactory areas on Garners Lane, the condition of part of Footpath 1 adjacent to Belle Vue Cottage and of the stile into the adjoining field and the disposal of a heavy-duty strimmer owned by the group. Mr Lewin informed the Tree Officer had been requested to inspect the condition of trees on the green lane which were dying back as there were concerns that overhanging branches could fall on the right of way. Mr Lewin believed the trees were declining rapidly. Two had fallen during recent high winds, which were to be removed and he believed a professional opinion should be sought from DEFRA at a cost of £95 from Footpath Group funds.

Cllr B J Bailey informed of the previous unsuccessful approach as to tree preservation orders and suggested he might revisit the issue.

As village webmaster, Mr Lewin informed he would like the web site to become busier. Having a second person to help in its production and content writing would be useful. The individual need not understand web sites but should have access to a PC and be willing to write material and gather information.

As a member of the public Mr Lewin raised the issue of low noise surfacing on the A55.

PC R Boulton informed of crime issues and the need for residents to ensure their property was kept securely. He advised patrols were being made in the early hours. A police surgery was to be held on Saturday 6 November 2010 at 10am. The Chairman asked if it would possible for a police presence to attend the Remembrance Sunday service given the need for traffic to be halted on three roads.

Cllr S Parker informed of current Cheshire West and Chester Council issues including the postponement of the next Gowy Community Forum to January 2011. Further consultation was awaited on the proposal for a 30mph speed limit on Station Lane. Cllr Parker informed of a series of Rural Regeneration and Housing Workshops which were taking place to which town and parish councils had been invited as it was felt the issues to be discussed would be relevant to local councils as well as other key organisations.

6 December

Cllr B J Bailey referred to a fly tipping issue. This would be mentioned in the newsletter.

Cllr S Parker referred to the availability of grit bags for parish councils to purchase, the anticipated outcome of the boundary review including proposals for a Chester Villages ward, community forums and improved links with the Area Partnership Boards and changes to policies for housing development in villages.

10 January

PC R Boulton kindly informed of current policing issues and emphasised the importance of property, including sheds and garages, being kept secure. Anti social and suspicious behaviour should similarly be reported. PCSO Beddows would pursue traffic enforcement. PC Boulton responded to Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

B Lewin Esq, Public Rights of Way Warden, informed of the hope that dog and litter bins would be installed at the approach to the Greenway. Mr Lewin responded to Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

As webmaster, Mr Lewin informed the site had been updated where appropriate.

Cllr S Parker informed of the Gowy Community Forum to be held on Tuesday 8 February 2011, the position as to confirmation of the Chester Villages ward, localism and changes to planning policy. Town and parish councils would have more powers if they wished. Cheshire West and Chester Council's council tax for 2011/12 would be frozen. Cllr Parker kindly intimated he would ensure the Council was informed of changes taking place. At the request of Cllr D Hughes, Cllr Parker undertook to make further inquiries as to whether double taxation had applied to the provision of winter grit bags to communities in rural and urban areas. Cllr Parker responded to Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

7 February

Cllr S Parker advised he had been selected as a Conservative candidate for the new Chester Villages ward, to include Guilden Sutton and kindly introduced Mrs Margaret Parker, a former Leader of Chester City Council and the current vice chairman of Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council, who had been selected as the second Conservative candidate.

Cllr S Parker informed that Cheshire West and Chester Council was currently investing a further £2m in highway maintenance and that defects not previously reported should be brought to the attention of the Clerk as a matter of urgency. Favourable comments had been received as to winter maintenance. The proposed 30mph limit on Station Lane would be implemented by the end of the month. The issue of the proposed 30mph limit on Guilden Sutton Lane would then be raised. Cllr Parker confirmed he was aware of the desire for a reduction from the national limit on Wicker Lane.

Further to the question by Cllr D Hughes at the previous meeting as to whether double taxation had applied to the provision of winter grit bags to communities in rural and urban areas, Cllr Hughes thanked Cllr Parker for the detailed information he had provided in response.

Cllr D Fisher revisited the issue of advertising on the Hoole roundabout, which was signed by the highway authority as a crash hot spot. Cllr S Parker responded by indicating that such advertising was national policy and that signs were permitted providing they were approved by the local highway authority.

Cllr Parker responded further to Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

7 March

Cllr S Parker advised on the Cheshire West and Chester Council budget, the continuation of the Rural Development Fund, an increase in Members' Personal Budgets, the implementation of the proposed 30mph limit on Station Lane and changes to arrangements for consultation on planning applications under which Town and Parish Councils would not receive paper copies of plans or decisions,

Cllr Parker responded further to Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

PC R Boulton informed a Police surgery would take place on Saturday 12 March 2011 at 10am and referred to crime and policing issues. A Member advised of 4x4 vehicles parking on the footway in Hill Top Road at school times.

PC Boulton and PCSO L Beddows responded further to Members' questions and were thanked for their attendance.

The Public Rights of Way Warden referred to the provision of a dog bin at the Guilden Sutton access to the Greenway and the problem of increasing litter on the Greenway and dog fouling. The Warden raised the possibility of appropriate posters being displayed on noticeboards.

The Warden responded further to Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

2 Councillors' surgeries.

4 September

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.

2 October

This had been attended by Cllrs Paterson and Davis with Cllr B J Bailey in attendance. It was noted the new landowner, Mr A Peers, did not wish public assemblies to take place on the pavement immediately adjoining the shops. The continuing concerns as to the uneven rise of the steps from the pavement to the car park had been raised with Mr Peers. Cllr Bailey informed he had been approached as to the speed of cyclists on the Millennium Greenway, bins not being returned to their original position and dog fouling. A suggestion was made that Cheshire West and Chester Council might produce a card showing the telephone numbers which people should contact with frequently raised issues.

30 October

This had been attended by Cllr Kerfoot and Moulton together with Cllr S Parker. Issues had been raised by two members of the public including potholes in School Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane and the condition of a reinstated trench on Guilden Sutton Lane close to the A41. It was suggested the fault reporting forms on the Cheshire West and Chester Council website should be publicised in the newsletter. The issues raised at the surgery would be progressed by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.** A suggestion had also been made that large vehicles were unable to safely turn right onto the A41 at Guilden Sutton Lane.

Members revisited the time for councillors' surgeries and compared this with the known times of similar surgeries elsewhere. It was agreed the issue should be kept under review and that for the time being surgeries should be held at 10am to avoid confusion for the public.

4 December

This had been attended by the Chairman and Cllr D Hughes. A request had been made by Mrs Earlam for a reduced speed limit on Wicker Lane and the installation of a permanent speed indicator device. It was agreed the Clerk should raise the issues with the Area Highways Manager. **Action: The Clerk.**

Mrs Batterham had inquired as to the ownership of a hedge adjoining her property which she wished it to cut. It was agreed enquiries would be made by the Clerk in an endeavour to assist Mrs Batterham. **Action; The Clerk.**

8 January 2011

Cllrs J Hughes and I Brown had presided. Dog fouling had been reported at Cathcart Green with a request for a bin. It was agreed this should be separately reported by Cllr Brown and the Clerk. **Action: Cllr Brown, the Clerk.**

5 February

Cllrs Moulton and Davis reported. Issues raised had included an incident of anti social behaviour and the amount of litter in the area of the Village Hall and shops. It was agreed the incident of anti social behaviour should be brought the attention of a PC Boulton. **Action: The Clerk.**

5 March

The Clerk and Cllr Moulton reported. No parish issues had been raised.

3 Community grants

The Council agreed grants of £500 towards the cost of the village fete and £200 for the holiday club organised by St John's, Guilden Sutton and St Peter's, Plemstall. The club takes place in Guilden Sutton Church of England Controlled Primary School.

Planning:

1 New applications.

10/04083/FUL change of use of agricultural land to caravan and camping site to include shop, reception, office, three amenity blocks, landscaping and roadworks at Rose Manor Farm, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford.

The Clerk informed he had placed this application on the agenda as a previous proposal had been brought to the Council's attention. Cllr D Hughes inquired if the view of Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council was known. At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr S Parker informed of concerns the development could become a Gypsy and Traveller site and referred to the proliferation of such sites in Mickle Trafford and District. He also advised of the need for very special circumstances to be demonstrated to justify development in the Green Belt. Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council had raised an objection. Cllr D Hughes informed he would support the objection by Mickle Trafford and District Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr D Hughes and agreed that the Council should object on Green Belt grounds. The following response was made:

"My Council has resolved to OBJECT to this proposal as Members are not persuaded there are sufficient very special circumstances to justify inappropriate development in the Green Belt (PPG2, ENV 63). Given the fragility of the Green Belt in this part of Chester, the Council supports the objectives to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas (Chester and Ellesmere Port), to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment and to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns (Chester)."

10/10167/FUL first floor front extension at 7 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr Richard Baird. Cllr Paterson reported. It was noted that although the property had previously been extended, the proposal would not increase the footprint. No objection had been raised.

10/10748/FUL, change of use of property from shop with dwelling above, use classes A1 and C3, to dental practice, use Class D1, at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW. It was agreed that further inquiries would be made by Cllr Fisher and Cllr J Hughes who would advise the Vice Chairman and remaining Members prior to any response given the prejudicial interest of the Chairman.

Further inquiries had been made by Cllrs Fisher and J Hughes. The following response was agreed:

"There is no objection to this application but the Council has concerns there is no detail of any changes to the area in front of the shops, including DDA adaptations, no details of any signage, which should require a separate consent and no reference to the fitting of external air conditioning equipment. The Council also wishes to recommend that the LPA should require the existing surgery to revert to residential accommodation. The Council's previous support for the retention of this valuable NHS facility remains."

10/10861/FUL conservatory at rear of 109 Oaklands CH3 7HG. Further inquiries had been made by Cllrs Paterson and Brown. It was agreed no objection should be raised.

10/11027/FUL rear extension to existing detached garage at 5 The Dell CH3 7ST. Cllrs Moulton and J Hughes reported. It was agreed no objection should be raised.

10/11199/FUL pitched roof to side extension at 15 Oaklands CH3 7HE for Mr Ian Rose. Cllrs Kerfoot and Moulton reported. It was agreed that no objection should be raised.

10/11254/FUL erection of horse stables and a small sheep unit at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane, CH3 7EJ for Mr and Mrs Mark and Audrey Jones. Cllrs Fisher and Moulton reported. It was noted the proposal could involve the removal of one of the few remaining substantial trees and that the design and access statement together with the proposed fencing of a pond raised questions about the possibility of future commercial equine activity. The location of a proposed sheep shed was thought to be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt. It was agreed on a 4 – 2 vote that the Council should object in the following terms:

"The Council has no objection to the proposed stables but wishes to object to the sheep shed aspect and to make the following observations:

(i) *Trees.* Should the LPA be minded to grant permission for the stable block, it should be on condition that this will not require the removal of or cause long term damage to the remaining three trees (including the horse chestnut). The applicant should be requested to explain the disappearance of trees in the proposed drawings from the existing. The application form, para 16, requires a full tree survey which has not been included. This should be required.

(ii) *Highways.* The reference in the design and access statement to equestrian activities helping to diversify the rural economy and the proposed fencing around the pond could suggest future commercial equestrian activity. This would cause increased intensification of the use of the access to the property, which is a designated public footpath, involving a sub standard junction with Belle Vue Lane which at that point is narrow and close to a bend. The Council therefore requests a condition that the stabling should be for the private personal use of the occupiers only with no commercial activity.

(iii) *Green Belt.* The Council OBJECTS to the proposal for a sheep shed on the basis the development would cause unacceptable harm to the openness of that part of the Green Belt. Should the LPA be minded to approve the proposed shed, the applicants should be required to divide the agricultural land in such a way as to permit its location closer to the footpath to minimise encroachment into the open countryside and to protect the Green Belt. In view of the cumulative effect of proposals on the site, the LPA is asked to consider that no further development should be permitted on Green Belt grounds”.

10/11506/ADV fascia and door/window signage 1-2 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW. Cllr Fisher reported. There were no objections to the proposal but it was noted the plans indicated significant alterations to the footway immediately adjoining the shop units including a modified vertical alignment to meet DDA requirements. The Clerk referred to the possible need for an application but informed the applicant had indicated he was in possession of building regulation notice approval. Concerns were expressed at the irregular rise of the modified steps from the car park.

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. Cllr Fisher reported. There was no objection as the units would be beneath the height of the boundary wall. The Council would not wish to see external pipework except in the immediate vicinity of the units. The Clerk informed the design statement referred to the premises having two car parking spaces at the front and being adjacent to a public car park. He had advised the case officer the former was a public car park in which there were no designated spaces and the latter was private land which was closed on one day annually.

10/11729 two storey side and single storey rear extensions at Thorngate, Church Lane CH3 7EW. Cllr Paterson reported. It was agreed no objection should be raised subject to the highway engineer 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.

10/11804/TPO fell one Beech, The Vicarage, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL.*

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.

10/12100/EXT extension of time to implement permission 07/00241/FUL for detached dwelling on land at the rear of The Vicarage, Wicker Lane, CH3 7EL. The Clerk had circulated correspondence relating to the previous application to which the Council had objected as Members had believed a further reduction in the height of the proposal could be achieved. Should this have been possible, the Council would have withdrawn its objection. The Clerk advised that in considering EXT applications, the only issue was whether the circumstances had changed to such a significant extent that permission should be withheld. It was not an opportunity to revisit the original decision. Following a report from Cllr Paterson, the Council agreed that no objection should be raised.

11/00564/TPO crown reduction of one Oak at 6 Middlecroft CH3 7HF.*

11/00622/EXT extension of time to implement permission 08/00423/FUL, single storey front and side extension at 28 School Lane CH3 7ET for Mr and Mrs R Wilkinson. The officer's report on the original application had been circulated by the Clerk. No objections had been raised although Members had forwarded observations. It was agreed that no objection should be raised subject to confirmation the LPA was consulting the same properties as on the previous occasion.

11/01191/FUL solar panels on front elevation at 10 Oaklands CH3 7HE (not received at date of report)

11/01226/TPO Sycamore reduction/reshaping at War Memorial Garden, Station Lane.*

11/12847/TPO reduce top of Silver Birch and crown lift Elm at 3 Orchard Croft, CH3 7SL.*

* No consultation with Parish Council.

2 Decision notices.

10/10167/FUL first floor front extension at 7 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL for Mr Richard Baird. Planning permission.

10/10527/NMA non material amendment to permission 09/11994/FUL - repositioning of entrance at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane CH3 7EJ. Planning permission. The Clerk informed the Council was not consulted on non material amendment applications.

10/10748/FUL change of use of property from shop with dwelling above (use classes A1 and C3) to dental practice (use Class D1) at 1 Summerfield Road CH3 7SW. Planning permission.

10/10906/NMA , non material amendment to application 09/11515/FUL 52 Oaklands. Planning permission. The Clerk reminded Members the Council was not consulted on this type of application. As the decision notice had not specified the amendment, involving the reconfiguration of a door and window at the rear of the two storey side extension, he had obtained a copy of the case officer's report and provided this to Cllr Fisher.

10/11027/FUL rear extension to existing detached garage at 5 The Dell CH3 7ST. Planning permission.

10/11199/FUL pitched roof to side extension at 15 Oaklands CH3 7HE. Planning permission. Party Wall Act advisory.

10/11254/FUL erection of horse stables and a small sheep unit at Belle Vue Cottage, Belle Vue Lane, CH3 7EJ. Planning permission. Stables for private family use only, landscaping to be approved to include native species, no lighting without prior approval, method statement re protected species, statement of avoidance measures re Great Crested Newts. In response to a Member's question as to the planning history of the site, Cllr Bailey advised he believed there was little which could be done.

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

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.

10/11804/TPO fell one Beech at The Vicarage Wicker Lane CH3 7EL. Permission.

10/11843/FUL timber framed balcony at Newhall Rise, School Lane, CH3 7EU. Planning permission. The local planning authority had indicated that notwithstanding the approved plans, it did not consider the red line illustrating the application site on the submitted location plan was indicative of the residential curtilage of the property and the notice of planning permission should not be construed as an approval of the use of the whole of the land for residential/domestic purposes.

10/12100/EXT extension of time to implement permission 07/00241/FUL for detached dwelling on land to rear of The Vicarage, Wicker Lane CH3 7EL. Planning permission.

10/12847/TPO reduce top of Silver Birch and crown lift Elm at 3 Orchard Croft CH3 7SL. Permission.

11/00622/EXT extension of time to implement planning permission 08/00423/FUL for single storey front and side extension at 28 School Lane CH3 7ET. Planning permission.

3 Parish Plan.

Cllr Paterson has provided regular progress reports. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 21 September 2010, of advice from the chairman of the Christleton Community Plan suggesting that as a neighbouring parish, Guilden Sutton should feel free to approach the group if it felt there were any issues of common interest or concern. This had been referred by the Clerk to Cllr Paterson. Cllr Paterson referred to the aspiration for a pedestrian crossing on the A51 at the junction with Hare Lane.

4 Development control process.

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence dated 1 February 2011 from the Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council as to significant changes proposed in the way the authority controlled development. The key details would be contained in neighbourhood plans developed by communities and the Council had applied to be a vanguard to develop a neighbourhood plan with the Department for Communities and Local Government and help develop the rules. Regular discussions with Town and Parish Councils were anticipated during the pilot process to enable the principal authority to understand the resource needs for Town and Parish Councils and Cheshire West and Chester to produce the plans, to develop an understanding of the process and to ensure the plans reflected local needs. The Leader advised that if no neighbourhood plan existed the presumption would be that a proposal by a developer would obtain permission regardless of the location and size of the proposed development. Neighbourhood plans would therefore be extremely important for the community. The Clerk indicated he would report further after studying documents which had kindly been provided by Cllr Jones including a Plain English Guide to the Localism Bill. Cllr D Hughes informed of his understanding that town and parish councils would be able to reject major applications.

The Council has recently been advised the local planning authority is moving to paperless consultation which has raised the question of how effectively adjoining occupiers can be consulted in the absence of large scale plans. Training has been offered to Members and Clerks and further sessions are planned before the system is fully introduced. The change is intended to take advantage of the local planning authority's new planning website which enables, for example, all applications in Guilden Sutton and their attached documentation, including decisions, to be tracked. Other existing services including the ability to speak to a duty planning officer and to visit the planning service in Chester to inspect planning files will continue.

LEISURE SERVICES

1 Play Area.

During the year, the Council revisited its risk assessment of aspects of the play area, including use by unaccompanied children and gritting during periods of ice and snow when it might be appropriate to close the play area on health and safety grounds. The Clerk was asked to pursue an estimate for the purchase of a suitable lock and chain to enable the closure of the play area together with a sign indicating the play area had been closed on health and safety grounds and should not be entered.

The Clerk informed he had sought advice from the Play Development Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council who had informed that during scheduled inspections, risk such as snow and ice would be assessed.

If the risk assessment required action to be taken, the site would probably be closed until the weather improved. The officer had advised that snow was less of an issue as by its nature it would offer some limited impact absorbency. Ice was more of an issue due to its likelihood to cause slips and falls and the injuries associated with this. Parental commonsense may apply but should not be taken for granted by any playground manager/operator.

2 Greenway access

The Council informed the highway authority, Cllr S Parker and the Greenway project officer of its concerns at conditions at the access to the Greenway on Guilden Sutton Lane. Councillors believe that signage is required to warn users on Garners Lane they are exiting onto a heavily trafficked road and similarly on Guilden Sutton Lane to warn drivers of the likelihood they will encounter pedestrians and cyclists emerging into the carriageway or turning across it. A request has also been made for the surface on Garners Lane to be improved for cyclists and those with pushchairs or wheel chairs.

The Council has noted that as a Restricted Byway, Garners Lane is available for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

3 Chester Marathon

The MBNA Chester Marathon took place using routes through the village on 31 May 2010. The Council welcomed the understanding the race organisers had been widely congratulated by competitors on the success of the event. Cllr Kerfoot informed of the feeding station she and others had manned at the commencement of the Greenway. Members and the Clerk informed of difficulties which had arisen with the traffic management arrangements and of complaints which had been received from occupiers unable to reach their homes. It was noted the communications, including signing, had not clearly identified Station Lane as the agreed diversion into the village and that access had also been available via Wicker Lane. The Clerk advised a wash up meeting was to take place and following contact with the organisers, it had been agreed the Parish Council should be represented. The Clerk subsequently 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.

4 Community Garden.

The Clerk informed of a proposal by Mr Daniel Palmer, Youth Member of Parliament, to establish a community garden on the Fox Cover amenity area for which he had held preliminary discussions with the landowner, Cheshire West and Chester Council. He also intended to apply for funding at a forthcoming participatory budgeting session. As the applications were restricted to groups holding a cheque signing protocol, the Chairman and Vice Chairman had agreed, without prejudice, that the Council would hold any grant which might be awarded on a ring fenced basis as had been agreed for the Parish Plan. The Clerk had advised Mr Palmer that any proposal must be the subject of consultation with neighbours and the wider community in addition to the Council.

The Clerk and Cllr Parker further informed of the view of residents of Fox Cover that the amenity area should be retained as such and should not be developed as a community garden. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

Public transport.

Cllr Moulton, Local Bus User Contact, informed the C27 service was to terminate in Church Lane for a trial period from 1 August 2010. The Council welcomed this long awaited aspiration. Trial visits had been made by the bus. Mrs Y Kirk believed such an arrangement would enable more people in the village to use the bus. 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 subsequently informed 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. The Clerk advised that Mrs Y Kirk had informed, by correspondence dated 24 September 2010, that the extended service had ceased on

11 September 2010 due to lack of support. It was understood the company was looking into the possibility of a 0905 service on Saturdays and during school holidays. Cllr Moulton confirmed this was the position.

A suggestion was made by Cllr Moulton that Members might avail themselves of the 27 service in order to familiarise themselves.

Highways.

1 Strategic.

Further to Mr Lewin referring to low noise surfacing provided on the A55 from the Dee Bridge to the A51, the Clerk informed this was only used, if justified, when normal maintenance would be incurred. The Council understood the length of road within the parish was not due to be maintained before 2012 at the earliest.

2 Guilden Sutton issues list

The Clerk informed that further to the Area Highway Manager attending the February 2010 meeting of the Council, the following issues list had been forwarded for attention. (The response of the highway authority appears in italics.)

Major schemes.

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

Belle Vue Lane

Haunching/pot holes.

Church Lane.

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

Flooding. In carriageway at foot of Fox Cover steps, possible BT manhole problem near junction with Wicker Lane.

Cinder Lane

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

Guilden Sutton Lane

Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. Untidy condition reported.

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.

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

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.

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.

Lighting obscured by trees at reservoir. (Old). Reported. Not known if action taken.

Obstruction of footway by nettles etc at one location, brambles at the approach to the diversion from the village. Ongoing.

Overgrown hedges at two properties. (Old) Believed resolved by highway authority.

Guilden Sutton Lane, trip hazard at the site of a fall adjoining fence (Gresty's field). No defect revealed, local Member not satisfied.

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

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

Wilding Business Estate, emerging traffic. Ongoing. Lining provided by Messrs Wilding. Bus stand opposite houses between Moorcroft Crescent and Wilding Business Estate. Growth obscuring view of approaching traffic for alighting passengers.

Condition of carriageway under A55 bridge. NEW

Hare Lane.

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

Oaklands

Shops area -

Disabled access to shops. To be resolved by current planning application.

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.

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

Flags adjoining , Summerfield Road. Ongoing concerns re condition. Not adopted.

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

Elsewhere -

Footpath 2, condition. Raised with Ian Lifford.

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

Need to edge out footway at Cathcart Green.

Carriageway defects on Oaklands approaching junction with School Lane at Wood Farm.

Carriageway defect in vicinity of the dell (site of previous collapse).

Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Ongoing school issue.

School Lane

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

Encroachment onto the highway. Posts and chains in verge. Council assured highway land could not be lost by default. Notices erected by occupiers requesting pedestrians not to use the verge at a second location where there is no footway

Flooded gulleys/depressed covers in vicinity of Arrowcroft Road. NEW

Condition of School Lane nameplate at the war memorial.

Station Lane.

Renewal of SLOW sign when leaving the village.

Speed review.

Wicker Lane

Gulley kerb, Concerns re the position of this kerb in the carriageway.

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

Surface water running from S bend towards Wicker House. NEW.

General

Planters. NEW. Possibility of planters being provided on highway land at a central location in the village.

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

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

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

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.

The following response was received from the Area Highways Manager:

Major schemes.

A55 resurfacing River Dee to A51. Need for similar low noise surfacing in Guilden Sutton (and Hoole Village) raised with Highways Agency. Response received as to policy, no date but believed to be 2012. *Not a Cheshire West and Chester Council issue as the Council is not the highway authority.*

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 Ian Lifford. Request for barrier to prevent reported use by motorcycles. *Update requested from Ian Lifford.*

Flooding. In carriageway at foot of Fox Cover steps, possible BT manhole problem near junction with Wicker Lane. *Area Highways Manager to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

Cinder Lane

Overgrown hedges, Cinder Lane/condition of footway. *Update requested from Ian Lifford.*

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

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 Manager to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

Lighting obscured by trees at reservoir. (Old). Reported. Not known if action taken. *Completed – can now come off the list.*

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.*

Overgrown hedges at two properties. (Old) Believed resolved by highway authority. *Completed – can now come off the list.*

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.*

Heath Bank, shrubbery, need for pruning. Dealt with. *Completed – can now come off the list.*

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.*

Wilding Business Estate, emerging traffic. Ongoing. Lining provided by Messrs Wilding. *Unsure of issue hence no comment.*

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. NEW

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 –

Disabled access to shops. To be resolved by current planning application. *No comment from Highways.*

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. *Area Highways Manager will arrange inspection.*

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

Flags adjoining , Summerfield Road. Ongoing concerns re condition. Not adopted. *No Comment.*

Footway rear Cathcart Green. Faulty step. Not adopted. Discussed at site meeting. *No Comment.*

Elsewhere –

Footpath 2, condition. Raised with Ian Lifford. *Update requested from Ian Lifford.*

School access to rear of Orchard Croft. Raised with Ian Lifford. *Update requested from Ian Lifford.*

Need to edge out footway at Cathcart Green. *Area Highways Manger to arrange for inspection.*

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.*

Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Ongoing school issue. *No Comment.*

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.*

Encroachment onto the highway. Posts and chains in verge. Council assured highway land could not be lost by default. Notices erected by occupiers requesting pedestrians not to use the verge at a second location where there is no footway

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.

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. *Detailed locations to be provide by Parish Council.*

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

Overgrown hedges at various locations. PC approach is to advise complainants to report to highway authority. *Will await Parish Council's comments.*

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

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.*

A more recent detailed update is as follows:

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.

2104880 - Inspector.

Last Notes (08.07.10): Inspected 07/07/10. No Cat 1 defects noted at time of inspection, but small areas of carriageway to be considered for rejuvapatc repairs where evidence of surface cracking is evident. Forwarded to contract delivery superintendent to programme workload.

Status: 150 - Placed on future scheme list.

Additional note from Inspector.

I have noted the condition of Belle Vue Lane and am currently making a case under "winter failure". The proposal is to strengthen the edge of carriageway which should result in a slight widening of the carriageway following which the carriageway will have a tarmac overlay. Finances will have to be taken into account, but I am projecting that the construction defined above from Hare Lane to "Willow Corner" will be actioned during 2011.

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 Manager to arrange for inspection in wet weather.

2104881 - Inspector.

Last Notes (18.08.10): Enquiry being inspected and action to be determined against Enquiry No. 3113135. (For info - enquiry 3113135 last notes: Level survey actioned 18/08/10. Extent of carriageway grading required to be determined)

Status: 0095 - Enquiry Pending

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

2104882 - Inspector.

Last Notes (09.07.10): Inspected 09/07/10. Steps formed in paving flags found to be sound in place with no Cat 1 defects evident. Noted build up of debris and some weeds on steps. Network Steward actioned a clean up which is considered resolves this enquiry.

Status: 0090 - Resolved

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. Initial measure proposed to strengthen the existing white markings in the gap in the central reservation to deter double parking. Cllr Bailey.

2104883 -

Last Notes (18.08.10): Inspected area to make a decision to reline area or to introduce a permanent kerb island.

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

2104884 -

Last Notes (28.06.10): Signs drawn up and ordered and awaiting erection.

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.*

2104885 -

Last Notes (19.08.10): Will contact DN to clarify location.

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 Manager to arrange for inspection in wet weather.*

2104887 - Inspector

Last Notes: None

Status: 0020 - Passed to officer

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.*

For info: Inspector resolved two separate requests from Mr Bunnell regarding overgrown nettles onto Guilden Sutton Lane on 09.07.10 & 18.10.10 (4713168 & 4716584 respectively)

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.*

2104888 - KC

Last Notes (14.12.10): 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. Will await further contact from the PC - Enquiry awaiting/being monitored

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.*

2104905 -

Last Notes (08.07.10): Checked on site in process of arranging slow marking to be laid next to existing.

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.*

2104912 - Inspector

Last Notes (08.07.10): Inspected 05/07/10. Noted that grass verge in the area of bus stop had not been cut back to boundary so obscuring of bus stand probability. On checking extent of grass cutting contract for area, can confirm that verge in question is designated urban and so should have been cut back to boundary and not a swathe as was being undertaken. Instruction now given via contract delivery team for grass cutting contractor to attend within next 5 working days and carry out grass cutting back to boundary. Considered that this action will remove any poor visibility issues. To be monitored.

Status: 0102 - Passed to Maintenance Crew

Condition of carriageway under A55 bridge. *New*

2104913 - Inspector

Last Notes (04.08.10): Area Engineer determined that area of stripped surface dressing will now be repaired by Durapatch process. Contractor currently working in area will programme work as soon as conveniently possible.

Status: 0150 - Placed on future scheme list.

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.*

Logged - 2107892 to monitor enquiry.

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. Recently installed.*

2104914 - Inspector

Last Notes (07.12.10): Job progressed

Status: 0101 - Work Complete.

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.*

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

2104917 - Inspector

Last Notes (19.11.10): Attended 17/11/10. Small carriageway defects noted outside house nos 2 and 4 and patched by Network Steward. Other defects exist at junction with Guilden Sutton Lane/School Lane which will be attended to by work order raised following S58 Inspection.

Status: 0090 - Resolved

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

2104918 - Inspector

Last Notes (02.11.10): Job 5008029 - Committed, Updating Job Status to Committed

Status: 0031 - Works passed to Contractor

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 Manager to inspect and comment upon completion of inspection.*

Logged - 2107893 (27.01.11)

Flooded gulleys/depressed covers in vicinity of Arrowcroft Road. *Area Highways Manager to arrange for inspection. Remedial work recently completed.*

2104920 - Inspector

Last Notes (23.11.10): Works order raised for CWaC Highways contractor to attend. Resetting of sunken gas and fire hydrant covers actioned by maintenance crew 17 and 18 Nov 2010.

Status: 0101 - Work Complete

Condition of School Lane nameplate at the war memorial. *Area Highways Manager to arrange for inspection. Parish Council to pursue.*

2104921 - Inspector

Last Notes (23.11.10): Spoke to Mr Norbury, Clerk to Parish Council, 21/10/10. On discussing the style of street name plate available via CWaC Highways, Mr Norbury agreed to investigate the avenue of having the existing sign repainted and if so arranged through Parish Council. No further action for Network Steward at this point.

Status: 0070 - Resolved telephone

Station Lane

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

2104922 -

Last Notes (23.06.10): Arranging for signs to be replaced

Status: 0090 - Resolved.

Speed review. In hand.

2107289 -

Last Notes (15.12.10): Report Sent to David Norbury

Status: 0096 - Resolved email sent.

Wicker Lane

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

2104924 - Inspector.

Last Notes (24.11.10): Cutting back of overgrowth undertaken during schedule rural grass cut. Email linked to this enquiry is from clerk to parish council thanking operatives at the time the work was carried out.

Status: 0090 - Resolved.

General

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

Parish Council to confirm locations prior to logging on.

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.*

2107289 -

Last Notes (15.12.10): Report Sent to David Norbury

Status: 0096 - Resolved email sent.

The following issues have separately been under consideration:

Station Lane

In support of a proposal that a 30mph speed limit should be introduced on the C836 Station Lane, the Council wrote to the Area Highways Manager as follows:

"You will be aware of concerns as to traffic conditions on this road following the extension of the Greenway. I understand the issue has been raised and the advice is the present derestricted length subject to the national limit does not qualify for a 30mph or 40mph measure.

"I am asked to say my Council fully supports the view the limit should be reduced for the arguments which have been put forward. As you know, the road is unlit, has no footways and is a rat run. These issues were raised by my Council at the public inquiry into the designation of Guilden Sutton Footpath no 7 as a BOAT, later a Restricted Byway, for the same reasons which now apply to the Greenway.

"Members are anxious the matter should be reconsidered or if not kept under very close review. There is increased pedestrian and cycle footfall on Station Lane by those seeking to access the Greenway. It is clearly a nonsense to expend a great deal of public money on creating a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists while obliging users to follow a hazardous route to reach it. I would encourage some creative thinking outside the box which I know is the hallmark of the new authority.

"A similar issue arises on Guilden Sutton Lane at the junction with Garners Lane which requires attention. I have advised the Project Officer that signage is required to warn users they are exiting onto a heavily trafficked road and similarly on Guilden Sutton Lane to warn drivers of the likelihood they will encounter pedestrians and cyclists emerging into the carriageway or turning across it.

"I have seen traffic in both directions having to stop as an extended family has attempted to manoeuvre their cycles, including a trailer containing an infant, off the road and into Garners Lane. A nearby occupier who is better placed to gather such information has already voiced concerns.

"My Council would be most grateful to have a response as to Station Lane and your views on the developing situation at Garners Lane and the steps which should be taken."

The Clerk informed that Cllr S Parker had helpfully raised the issue with the Portfolio Holder and with the Community and Environment Director. The measure was subsequently advertised and implemented.

Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane.

The historic issue was again raised with the Area Highways Manager. Cllr B J Bailey was understood to be pursuing the possibility of red and white hatching being provided to emphasise the areas on which vehicles should not wait in the centre of the road. Cllr Moulton suggested the possibility of a camera being installed to monitor the junction. It was noted that pedestrians using the existing crossing points on the dual carriageway were at risk as the drivers of vehicles wishing to turn left naturally concentrated on traffic approaching from the right. The possibility of the crossing points being relocated was raised with the highway authority and the following response was received:

"I have looked at the crossing provision and do appreciate the comments. However, having looked at the Hoole roundabout side of the junction I do not consider there is a suitable location to provide a better crossing point. Vehicles parked in the lay-by on the Guilden Sutton side would mask pedestrians waiting to cross and obscure their visibility and on the Hoole side, the junction with Pipers Lane and the acceleration lane on to the A41 would create a lot of conflict for pedestrians to negotiate.

"With regard to the provision of traffic signals. As you will be aware signalling a junction involves a considerable cost which must be justified. The most common justification, if no new development is taking place, is due to a high level of collisions occurring which it is expected that signals would reduce.

"Having checked my most recent 3 year collision data for the junction, I have found there to have been 2 slight injury collisions, 1 of which did not involve turning vehicles. Given that our road safety engineering team are currently using an intervention level of 7 collisions in 3 years before they investigate a location, as unfortunately we have many locations with at least this many, I am sure you will appreciate that we will not currently be looking to take any action at the A41/Guilden Sutton Lane junction.

"It is also worth noting that traffic signals do create on average between 1 and 1.5 collisions per year and that before any safety schemes is progressed, a full investigation is undertaken to establish the type of collisions which are occurring. Therefore given the current collision data it is very unlikely that traffic signals would be appropriate for this location.

"I trust I have answered the Parish Council's queries fully, but should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me."

Cllr Davis believed the provision of signals at Hoole Roundabout would assist.

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 S 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.

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.

Winter maintenance.

Further to Cllr D Hughes expressing appreciation for the work undertaken by the highway authority to clear carriageways and footways in the village during the adverse weather, the Clerk informed he had written to the Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council. The Leader had kindly reported the correspondence to a meeting of the council's Executive at which the Clerk had been unable to be present and had expressed the principal authority's appreciation for those who took the trouble to write. This could also be viewed on the web cast of the meeting. At the suggestion of Cllr D Hughes, it was agreed that Mr Arden would also be thanked for the snow clearing he had undertaken.

The Clerk further reported the receipt of detailed advice kindly provided by Cllr S Parker as to the policy adopted by the highway authority with respect to the supply of grit bags together with supporting information from the Area Highways Manager. The Clerk understood it was hoped the concerns which had arisen as to charging for bags in some areas but not in others would be resolved in the future. He had requested that during adverse weather a bag should be made available to Guilden Sutton to service the approaches to the primary school, the Village Hall car park, the shops and the approaches to the shops from Summerfield House.

Horses.

Horses are often ridden through the village and the following advice from the British Horse Society was published in the newsletter.

Horses are unpredictable and easily frightened by things they perceive as a threat. This comes from their natural instincts, they are prey animals and as such, their reaction to any threat is flight. A twitch in the ditch may take them back to the Sabre Tooth Tiger that threatened their ancestors – waiting to pounce as they pass.

The bird flying out from behind a hedgerow or the plastic bag blowing in the wind may cause the horse to unexpectedly spook into the road . . . and into your oncoming car. There is little a rider can do about this, natural behavioural instincts are strong.

In some instances, the rider may be busy keeping control of their horse and not able to acknowledge your consideration, but they will be very grateful to you.

The message therefore is, please be careful when passing horses, give them a wide berth and go by SLOWLY and be prepared to stop if necessary! Nobody wants to damage your vehicle and with a little consideration there is room for everyone to live in harmony on the roads.

Finance

1 Budget 2011/12.

The Clerk submitted statements of income and expenditure for 2009/10, for the current period to 31 December 2010, an updated summary of budget variances and the expected position with each at 31 March 2011 and an updated forecast out turn based on anticipated expenditure and proposals included within the budget together with a discussion budget for 2011/12 put forward following the budget meeting between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and RFO. The Clerk reminded Members of the further restrictions to be placed on public expenditure, due to take effect from 2011/12 onwards and to a council tax freeze for principal authorities. This did not apply to Town and Parish Councils although the Clerk believed first tier authorities would be expected to take note. He reminded Members the payment of grant towards the lengthsman service of £645 would be lost from 1 April, 2011. Members gave detailed consideration to the budget proposals which held the total at £18,764 for the fourth successive year although it was noted that in some cases individual allocations had been revised to reflect actual expenditure. The Clerk's agreed expense allowance had increased by £1pw to £156pa. Where allocations in 2009/10 were no longer required, these had been transferred to general contingency in view of uncertainties, particularly with respect to the new Streetscene contract. It was also proposed the precept should be held at the 2010/11 figure, the only increase being £645 to allow for the loss of the lengthsman grant. It was noted the Council had similarly increased the precept in a previous year to allow for the loss of the double taxation grant. It was proposed by Cllr D Hughes, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed unanimously that a budget of £18,764 should be proposed for 2011/12 with a precept of £16,423.

2 Review of procedures for risk assessment.

In connection with the financial decision recorded above, Members formally considered risk issues associated with that decision and their procedures for risk assessment covering the whole of the Council's activities. The Council concluded there were no matters for review at present.

3 Business Rate Relief.

The Clerk reported the receipt of advice, by correspondence dated April 2010, from Cheshire West and Chester Council referring to an increase in the level of small business rate relief during the period 1 October, 2010 to 30 September, 2011. Further inquiries would be made by the Clerk to establish the position in respect of the car park.

The Clerk subsequently reported that with the ready assistance of officers at Cheshire West and Chester Council a rebate dating back to 2007 had been obtained. Taken with the present relief this amounted to a very welcome £1,382.47.

4 Insurance cover.

Further to consideration being given by Cllr D Hughes and the Clerk to a number of individual elements within the insurance, which had revealed no great discrepancies, the Clerk informed that approaches had been made to possible alternative providers. No response had been received from the alternative market leader and the Council's bankers, which had previously made an approach, had returned the documents indicating they were not able to provide a quotation. Inquiries of a community based scheme had indicated that paperwork would have to be completed to enable a quotation to be provided. Brokers for a specific parish council scheme underwritten by Norwich Union had replied immediately with an extremely favourable indicative quotation which had been circulated to Members. It was proposed by Cllr J Hughes, seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed that subject to satisfactory answers to a number of further detailed questions to be raised by the Clerk, the responses to which would be referred to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the latter quotation would be accepted from 1 June 2010 on the basis of a three year agreement to take advantage of a long term discount.

5 Clerk's gratuity account.

The Council maintains a gratuity account payable to the Clerk on retirement in lieu of a pension. During the year, the following sums were transferred:

2007/08 arrears	£ 4.05
2008/9	£ 175.52
2009/10	£ 181.26
2010/11	<u>£ 181.26</u>
	£ 542.09

6 Annual Return 2009/10

Note: A summary of the Council's accounts for 2010/11 will appear in the annual report newsletter to be issued prior to 30 June 2011

Head	31/03/09	31/03/10
Balances b/f	25782	28984
Add precept	13104	13104
Other receipts	11350	901
Staff costs	4317	5176
Other payments	16935	11001
Balances c/f	28984	26812
Assets	61642	64683

Supporting notes 2009/10.

Assets.

During the year, there were no acquisitions or disposals.

At 31 March 2010 the following assets were held:

1 no Brother AX110 electric typewriter	£ 82 (b)
3 no street lights	£ 1140 (b)
1 no memorial garden	£ 4627 (a) (c)
1 no see saw	£ 1476 (c)
1 no basket ball post	£ 1486 (c)
1 no preschool unit	£ 5810 (c)
1 no multiplay unit	£11989 (c)
1 no animal spring	£ 478 (c)

1 no slide	£ 2050 (b)
1 no parish car park	£ 5306 (a) (c)
3 no bus shelters	£ 6240 (c)
3 no notice boards	£ 900 (b)
2 no public seats	£ 750 (b)
3 no parish boundary signs	£ 360 (b)
4 no litter bins	£ 400 (b)
4 no benches	£ 460 (b)
5 no signs	£ 212 (b)
1 no CCTV installation	£ 4280 (b)
1 no play area fencing and gate	£ 1645 (c)
Gates and fences	£ 2652 (c)
1 no play area surfacing included beneath	
1 no basketball pad	£12008 (c)
3 no bus shelter seats	£ 316 (b)
1 no printing calculator	<u>£ 16 (b)</u>
	£64683

The basis of the evaluation of these assets is as follows:

- (a) nominal - community asset
- (b) replacement value
- (c) insured value

Leases.

At the year end, no leases were in operation.

Borrowings.

At the close of business on 31 March 2010 there were no outstanding loans to the Council.

Debts.

At 31 March 2010 there were no repayments due to the Council under previously agreed loans.

Capital reserves.

At 31 March 2010 the Council had no capital reserves although an appropriate proportion of any balances at the time would be applied to the purchase of a parish playing field should this become possible, provision for youth and provision for a replacement play area. The Council agreed that £1000 per annum of balances from 2004/05 should be earmarked for this latter purpose.

Earmarked reserves.

At 31 March 2010 the Council had the following earmarked reserves:

General projects	£ 1114
Clerk's gratuity	£ 2612
Parish Plan	£ 2797
Replacement play area	£ 6000

Overall reserves.

The reserves at 31 March 2010 comprised:

General projects	£ 1114
Clerk's gratuity	£ 2612
Parish Plan	£ 2797
Replacement play area	<u>£ 6000</u>
Balance	£14289

In response to the Auditor's comments in 2007, the Council froze the precept in view of the economic situation and bore the cost of the loss of a £1,863 grant from the former Chester City Council thus further improving the relationship between the balances and the precept.

The Council will continue to keep the level of reserves under review bearing in mind the aspiration to acquire a playing field.

Tenancies.

During the year the Council held no tenancies as landlord.

As a tenant, the Council held a licence for the rent of the parish playing field at a rent of £640 per annum on a repairing basis.

Section 137 payments.

The limit for spending under section 137 of the LGA 1972 for this Council during the year was £9378.75. One payment was made during the year, Royal British Legion (wreath) £18.00.

Agency work.

During the year no agency work was undertaken on behalf of other authorities.

Advertising and publicity.

The following costs for advertising and publicity were incurred during the year:

Recruitment advertising nil
Other advertising nil
Publicity (newsletter) £629

Contingent liabilities.

NIL.

Pensions.

For the year of account, the Council made no contributions to employee pensions.

Summary accounts.

Opening balances.

Current	£ 5696.63	
Scottish Widows 1	£20722.40	
Scottish Widows 2	<u>£ 2601.80</u>	
	£29020.83	
minus u/p	£ 36.00	
	£28984.83	£28,984.83

Receipts.

Current	£13963.57	
Scottish Widows 1	£ 30.53	
Scottish Widows 2	<u>£ 10.33</u>	
	£14004.43	
		£42989.26

Payments.

Current	£16177.22	
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Scottish Widows 1	£Nil	
Scottish Widows 2	<u>£Nil</u>	
	£16177.22	<u>£26812.04</u>

Closing balances

Current	£ 3674.98
Scottish Widows 1	£20752.93
Scottish Widows 2	<u>£ 2612.13</u>
	£27040.04

Reconciliation to box 8

Minus u/p	£ 228.00
	<u>£26812.04</u>

Receipts:

Precept	£13104.00
Other	<u>£ 900.43</u>
	£14004.43

Expenditure:

Staff costs	£ 5175.89
Other	<u>£11001.33</u>
	£16177.22

Significant variations.

Line 3. The reduction in income (£10450) comprised

Loss of double taxation grant	£ 1863
Fall out of Parish Plan grant	£ 3000
Fall out of CCTV grant	£ 1450
Fall out of Car Park Improvement grant	£ 750
Fall out of Gardens Open Day Grant	£ 270
Decrease in VAT refund	£ 1215
Decrease in street cleansing grant (previous year included arrears)	£ 582
Decrease in interest rates	£ 1020
Decrease in churchyard grant (previous year included advance payment)	£ 250
Other	<u>£ 50</u>
	£10450

Line 4. The Clerk's salary was increased following a review. The total also includes arrears attributable to training.

Line 6. The reduction in expenditure (£5934) comprised:

Clerks expenses	£ (14)
Newsletter	£ (189)
Grounds maintenance/Lengthsman	£ (878)
Subscriptions	£ 34
Playing field rent	£ 23
Insurance	£ 116
Grants awarded	£ 350
Business rates	£ 29

Bus Shelter cleaning	£ (8)
Parish Plan expenditure	£ (87)
Audit fees	£ (3)
Training	£ 480
Christmas events	£ 5
Open Gardens Day	£ (51)
Play area repairs	£ 571
CCTV	£ (4973)
Car park improvements	£ (1760)
Tree and hedge work	<u>£ 420</u>
	£ (5935)

Line 9. The asset base increased due to insurance revaluations.
gspc 09/10

Environment Services

1 Dog fouling.

The Clerk informed that arrangements were being introduced by Cheshire West and Chester Council from May, 2010 under which community safety wardens, street scene staff and civil enforcement officers would be able to issue fixed penalty notices for litter and dog fouling. He understood the specialised outside contractor which provided a dog warden service would respond to issues raised by public realm officers. Cllr S Parker had kindly agreed to investigate the action to be taken in communities such as Guilden Sutton where these officers did not patrol on a regular basis. The following information was supplied by Cheshire West and Chester Council in response to an inquiry by the Parish Council:

“The new team of front line officers will be nearly 50 strong in the first instance (from mid May). We have a seconded police officer (Insp Mel Williams) who is working on how to task and co-ordinate these officers to address concerns raised by communities. They will operate in new ways and in new areas. Where problems exist anywhere in the borough we can target the resource to address the issue.

“Currently, we only have two dog wardens and the community safety wardens and Civil Enforcement Officers patrol mainly in the urban areas of Ellesmere Port and Chester City - this initiative is designed to change the way we work and provide services to parts of our community such as Guilden Sutton which have previously been excluded”.

A Member referred to incidents of dog fouling where due to their age or infirmity, dog walkers were unable to poop scoop. It was accepted this could be a difficulty. A note would be included in a future issue of the Newsletter.

2 Wildlife

Cllr Davis informed of his pleasure at sighting a Swan on the River Gowy.

Cheshire West and Chester Council.

1 Electoral Review, Cheshire West and Chester.

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.

2 Streetscene services.

The principal authority indicated it was the intention there would be one to one negotiations with each Town and Parish Council based on mapped proposals for Streetscene services which would indicate the frequency of service delivery proposed for individual areas from 1 April, 2011.

This would be accompanied by a costed menu of optional add-ons. Those Town and Parish Councils currently enjoying a lengthsman grant, which included Guilden Sutton, would be a priority.

A meeting was subsequently held between the Parish Council and officers. Questions were raised as to how the new standards would interact with the lengthsman service provided by the Parish Council's contractor in the high footfall area involving the Village Hall car park, the childrens' play area and the adjoining school access and verge and if substandard areas such as the path at the rear of Orchard Croft and the dingle path would be brought up to specification. More recently a site meeting was held to revisit these issues to which there had been no definitive answer at the time of writing. The position will be closely monitored by the Parish Council and appropriate action taken if necessary.

3 Scrutiny review of the relationship between the principal authority and town and parish councils.

Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt of this consultation, the Clerk informed he had forwarded a response by the due date of 2 February 2011 as follows:

"Cllr Andrew Dawson
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny

Dear Cllr Dawson

Scrutiny Review of Cheshire West and Chester Council's relationship with Local Councils.

Thank you very much indeed for the opportunity to comment on your draft report. I have been asked to reply. This is clearly an extremely useful document but I believe Members would welcome a further opportunity to discuss the detail and to further their understanding of the issues if this could be arranged.

We are, obviously, at a very early stage in getting to grips with the emerging Localism agenda but the Council would wish to engage fully in the process and to be able to consider the opportunities for enhancing its role within the community either through the provision or commissioning of services.

The Council appreciates the efforts which Cheshire West and Chester Council and particularly the Scrutiny function is applying to improving relationships with Town and Parish councils, exploring possibilities for greater involvement and in striving to ensure that Councils are fully informed. There is no "one size fits all" solution but the golden thread in any partnership arrangement is good communications and information and we believe you are striving to achieve that.

Our comments on the consultation are beneath.

Recommendation 1

That the Executive publish year on year the Domesday Book for our Local Councils which in addition to stating the precept raised and the Council Tax charged per Band D property should include such other data such as precept raised per head of population and other data which would assist in understanding our Local Councils, promoting good practice by and with them, assist in partnership and locality working, the efficient provisioning of services and the minimisation of overheads.

It is recommended that the Domesday Book be published electronically in a format that readily permits the data presented to be searched, sorted and manipulated by all.

It is further recommended that the report include an executive summary, populated with readily intelligible tables permitting a ready understanding of the data.

It is recommended that the Domesday Book be confined simply to matters of readily ascertainable fact and that each Town or Parish Council be given the opportunity to verify that the data published concerning them is correct.

The Council does not believe that Domesday Book is an appropriate title for the 21st century and suggests that something simple, perhaps on the lines of "Town and Parish Councils: Facts and Figures" would suffice. Setting that aside, the Council strongly supports such a publication although it recognises that inevitably, as with school league tables, those without the full information could lead themselves to an incorrect conclusion. For example, a council with an annual budget of £15,000 could report a budget increase to £25,000 in the following year simply because it has invested £10,000 on new safety surfacing for a play area which would have had the support of the local community.

Recommendation 2

That the Executive decision to discontinue street cleansing grants to Local Councils from 1 April 2011 be endorsed.

This is not supported. Although Guilden Sutton had an extremely modest grant, this was important in supporting the lengthsman service which is provided in the village and made a contribution towards mitigating the iniquity of double taxation.

Recommendation 3

That the Executive decision to replace the grants system with Place Based Service Standards be endorsed.

The Council understands the need for borough wide service standards but believes that within this there should be flexibility to ensure the standards which are applied best meet the needs of individual Town and Parish Councils. This should be apart from the ability of local councils to enhance the standard of service at a cost of local council tax payers following appropriate consultation.

Recommendation 4

That the Executive ensure clear Place Based Service Standards are in place for all services and clearly communicated.

This is supported. The Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss Streetscene issues at an initial meeting with officers but looks forward to further discussions on site to resolve particular problems or grey areas.

Recommendation 5

That the Executive look at the feasibility of introducing a differential council tax rate for non-parished areas which would allow such areas to also receive enhanced or addition services to those set out in Service Standards where the communities served are seen to require or request them in a democratically accountable fashion.

The Council believes that as a matter of urgency the principal authority should do everything possible to deal with the long standing iniquity of double taxation to which this relates. One answer would be the parishing of the entire borough where this is the will of electors in unparished areas. The Council is pleased the principal authority has the stated intention to promote this which would end the present unfairness. A practical example is that it is unacceptable that school children in the urban area are able to walk to school along, clean, frequently swept footways while in Guilden Sutton, a main access to the Primary School, which was specifically designed as such, is often difficult and dirty underfoot.

Recommendation 6

That the Executive identify options for developing a "credits approach" which would allow Local Councils to ensure flexible local service provision in accordance with local priorities.

This is supported.

Recommendation 7

That the Executive support the Cheshire Association of Local Councils in its work to promote the democratic role of Local Councils; and, asks ChALC to formulate flexible proposals to ensure the maximum accreditation of local councils under the "Quality Status" banner swiftly and to draw up proposals to ensure that all local councils are represented by ChALC and that the Executive consider with ChALC how the services of a fully qualified peripatetic clerk could be made available for all local Councils at reasonable cost.

The Council, which has a qualified Clerk, actively supports the work of and engages with the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 8

That the Executive initiate a Borough-wide Community Governance Review ideally at the same time as, or ahead of, reviewing the Area Working arrangements. The Committee asks the Executive to note its view that representation of the larger parishes or groups of parishes above a certain threshold on Area Partnership Boards should be automatic providing representation for the smaller communities is also maintained.

The Council supports of the thrust of this recommendation, particularly in securing improved relationships and engagement between Town and Parish Councils and Area Partnership Boards. Again, as previously expressed above, there is probably no "one size fits all" solution. Provided Town and Parish Councils meet the statutory requirements, it is important they are allowed to discharge their powers and duties in what they consider to be the most appropriate way to best meet the needs of their local community.

Recommendation 9

*That the Executive review its current support arrangements for Local Councils with a view to: Supporting democracy by providing incentives to undertake elections where there is buy in from local councils to improving their accountability to their electorate
Opening up Cheshire West and Chester training opportunities to local councillors by, for example, recording the training provided to Cheshire West and Chester Councillors and making it available on line for all Local Councillors and encouraging them to take part
Consider more user friendly means of communicating with Local Councils - such as the use of video to explain consultations - and also to consider establishing a "consultation calendar" so that local councils have notice of what and when they are likely to be consulted about and their timetable for replies.*

Look at the way planning applications are consulted on with a view to supporting local councils respond in a timely and quality manner

The Council strongly supports improved training, information and communications. The principal authority should be aware, however, that the standard of IT available to local councils may not be to the same standard as that enjoyed by Cheshire West and Chester Council. The provision of enhanced communications equipment should be considered where this is of mutual benefit.

Recommendation 10

That the Executive implement those suggestions for support that do not require additional input from Local Council as soon as possible and publicise their availability.

Recommendation 11

That the Executive work with ChALC to identify how those support products that would require financial or other commitment from Local Councils can be best taken forward. (It may be that the employment of a peripatetic clerk detailed in recommendation 7 above would assist in this matter.)

Recommendation 12

That all Local Councils in Cheshire West and Chester identify opportunities for joint working to achieve savings for local residents.

The Council supports recommendations 10, 11 and 12.

Recommendation 13

That the Executive and ChALC work together to re-invigorate the Parish Plan process, together with those of Village Design Statements and Village Appraisals to ensure Local Councils are at the heart of development and delivery of plan for their locality. The Committee consider that this should be the foundation for the furtherance of locality working throughout the Borough.

The Council strongly supports the emerging work of the Parish Plan Group within the parish and therefore welcomes this recommendation."

Guilden Sutton Methodist Church.

Further to Cllr P M Paterson inquiring about the possibility of the church building being listed, the following response was received from the conservation officer who also indicated he believed the chapel to be a real asset to the village:

"The Chapel is clearly a fine and relatively unaltered (both internally and externally) non conformist chapel from the latter part of the nineteenth century (datestone 1873), in a simple gothic style but elaborated by the use of polychromatic brick detailing, particularly to the wall openings.

"Listings are made on behalf of the Secretary of State by English Heritage and strict criteria are applied by that body. For buildings of this period to be listed they would usually have to be rather outstanding examples of their type usually attributable to an architect of national importance, or perhaps the building itself is associated with events in history of national interest. e.g. the chapel at Brown Knoll is listed only because of its associations with the preaching of Wesley.

“While acknowledging the local interest of the building I do not feel that the building sufficiently meets current listing criteria to warrant a spot listing application being made by the Council to English Heritage. Notwithstanding I shall notify our Development Control colleagues of the likely imminent redundancy of the chapel, and ask that should proposals come forward we will be consulted”.

Consultations.

The Council considered and responded where appropriate to the following consultations:

Cheshire West and Chester Council:

Open space assessment and audit. The Clerk informed the Council had appointed specialist sport and leisure consultants to undertake an open space audit and assessment across the borough. This would update the studies undertaken by the previous authorities. The assessment would aim to identify the needs of the public across the local authority and to map out the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision in order to prioritise areas for improvement and development. It would help to understand local issues so that they could be addressed more effectively. He proposed to attend a drop in session to be held in Winsford on Wednesday 14 April, 2010 to discuss issues in Guilden Sutton. This was agreed. The Clerk subsequently informed he had held an extremely constructive discussion with the consultants. Although a preliminary report was promised by the summer with a final report in the New Year, no report has yet been forthcoming.

Chester Central, a new business quarter for a world class city.

Local Transport Plan. A balanced response was submitted which gave high priority to issues such as roads maintenance and improvements to public transport in the rural area and which also recognised sustainable issues while taking account of aspects which should not have priority in the current public expenditure climate.

Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Ten Year Capital Vision.

Statement of Licensing Policy re Sex Establishments. The Council agreed with the objectives.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2016. Under consideration.

Homes Assistance Policy.

Cheshire Community Action:

Community Safety Survey. The Chairman encouraged Members to respond to this survey, details of which had been circulated by the Clerk.

Cheshire and Warrington Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Survey 2010.

Cheshire Police Authority:

Police Authority budget, priorities for Policing, Police reform.

Information correspondence:

The following information correspondence was reported to the Council:

12 April

Leisure Services: RoSPA play area inspections 2010, Mid Cheshire Footpath Society: annual general meeting 14 April, 2010, annual report 2009/10, Friends of the Millennium Greenway: volunteer days 20 March 2010, 17 April 2010.

ChALC/NALC: Newsletter 131 March 2010, resignation of Development Officer, vacancy for Administrative Assistant, Local Council Review Spring 2010, Direct Information Service.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Gypsy and Traveller overview sessions 18 May and 13 July 2010, Easter waste and recycling collections, Partnerships bulletin no 14, Community Select Panel, West Cheshire Together Local Strategic Partnership event 27 April, 2010, Gowry and Eddisbury Community Forum 11 March 2010, Benefits take up campaign, Council tax and non-domestic rates 2010/11, open space requirements, drop in, 14 April, 2010.

Cheshire Community Action: newsletter March 2010, Community Aggregates Fund 2010/11, Workshops for Voluntary Organisations.

CPRE: Cheshire Viewpoint Spring 2010.

Policing: NPU Newsletters February/March 2010, Rural Inspector's Updates, information from trading standards.

General: Clerks and Councils Direct March 2010, Energy Saving Trust, Green Communities.

10 May

ChALC/NALC: NALC events 2010.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Gypsy and Traveller overview sessions 18 May and 13 July, Partnership Bulletin no 15, Cheshire Advice Partnership newsletter Spring 2010.

Cheshire Community Action: Participatory budgeting briefing notes, Aggression/Assertiveness training 5 May 2010.

Policing: Western Rural updates, Guilden Sutton/Mickle Trafford newsletter.

Living Streets: West Cheshire pedestrian survey.

7 June

Leisure: Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society, walks programme July-December 2010.

ChALC/NALC: ChALC Newsletter 132, motions for annual meeting (response due 3 September 2010), attendance at annual meeting (Thursday 21 October 2010) (response due 10 September 2010).

Health: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership newsletter no 8.

12 July

ChALC/NALC: Allotment Officers Forum, Newsletter July 2010, Accompanied Transport to Health Appointments, Training Opportunities, E Bulletin, NALC Events Bulletin, LCR Summer 2010.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Concessionary Travel, Benefits Service, The Big Lunch 18 July 2010, Participatory Budget Event 7 July 2010, Gypsy & Traveller event 13 July 2010, Town and Parish Council Review seminar 14 July 2010, Highway grit and spreading, Scrutiny newsletter no 2, Draft Affordable Warmth Strategy consultation.

Cheshire Community Action: Future of cheques consultation event, Newsletter June 2010.

Rural Inspector's updates, Homewatch: information from partner agencies.

Run In England – volunteer run leaders.

West Cheshire Pedestrian Survey

Greenway: Friends Volunteer Day.
Clerks and Councils Direct July 2010.

6 September

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.

4 October

Strategic matters: North West Development Agency annual conference and annual general meeting.

Leisure services: Greenway volunteer day 18 September 2010.

ChALC/NALC: Newsletter 134; Local Council Review Autumn 2010; NALC Events Bulletin

CWAC: Partnerships Bulletin no 20; Proposed bulletin for town and parish councils; Voluntary Arts Network Event 26 September 2010; Waste Reduction Volunteer Scheme; Local Strategic Partnerships Network event 18 November 2010; Rural regeneration and housing workshops October/November; Parish Planning and Village Design Statement workshop 7 October, 2010; Rural film clubs; Streetscene service standards; Funding fair 21 October 2010; Town and Parish Council Review Seminar 15 September 2010; Gowy Community Forum 14 September 2010; Broxton Community Forum 13 September 2010.

Cheshire Community action: cessation of Project Rural Matters 3 December 2010; Beginners Excel training 19 October, 2010.

Cheshire County Playing Fields Association: Newsletter Summer 2010.

Health: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust newsletter 9.

Policing: Rural Inspector's updates; Homewatch updates; On the Grapevine; Distraction burglaries.

Groundwork Cheshire: Reloved recycling project.

General: Festive Lighting equipment; Save The Family Newsletter Autumn 2010.

1 November

NALC/ChALC: NALC Events Bulletin; ChALC annual meeting 21 October 2010.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Gowy Community Forum revised date; Local Transport Plan consultation, response due 31 December, 2010; Rural Support Development Fund, applications due 30 November 2010; Register of interest forms; Partnership Bulletin 21; Rural regeneration and housing strategy workshops; Local Strategic Partnership Network event 18 November, 2010; Voluntary Sector funding fair 21 October 2010; BT survey re potential demand for fibre broadband; Winter grit presentation.

Cheshire Community Action: Annual general meeting Wednesday 27 October, 2010; Cessation of Project Rural Matters; Beginners Excel training.

Health: Western Cheshire PCT participatory budgeting event Monday 22 November 2010.

Policing: PC Boulton community update, Inspector's Updates.

Homewatch: Telephone calls re alarm systems, potential loan scam, jewellery scam, telephone calls re computer faults.

Greenway volunteer day 16 October, 2010.

6 December

Guilden Sutton Parish Council: Newsletter 140

Leisure Services: Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society Walks Programme January - June 2011; Millennium Greenway: Volunteer Day report 11 September, 2010; Volunteer Day Saturday 11 December, 2010, 10.30am.

Finance: Insurance cover for charitable and not for profit groups.

Trees: Cheshire Landscape Trust: Orchard workshops 29 January 2011, 27 February 2011.

ChALC/NALC: ChALC annual report 2009/10; ChALC newsletter November 2010.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Big Lottery, new community buildings grant scheme; Partnership Bulletin no 22; Standards Newsletter no 2.

County Playing Fields Association: annual report 2010; The Playing Field Autumn 2010.

CPRE: Countryside Voice Autumn 2010; Countryside Voice Winter 2010; Fieldwork December 2010.

Policing: Western Rural Inspector's reports; Western Watch Homewatch updates: Police Question Time 20 January 2011; Crimebeat Reporter Summer 2010.

Display of posters: Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Chester Volunteer Centre. Drive Alive.

The Prince's Countryside Fund.

North West Rural Affairs Forum: Weekly Digest 5 November 2010.

Clerks and Councils Direct November 2010.

10 January

Highways: Proposed traffic regulation order C836 Station Lane Guilden Sutton/Mickle Trafford.

ChALC/NALC: Banking arrangements; January 2011 newsletter.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Partnership Bulletin 23; Budget consultation Monday 17 January 2011 5.15pm, H Q; Standards Newsletter No. 3; Town and Parish Councils Bulletin; Disruption of waste collections; Consultation on Home Assistance policy - response due 21 January, 2011; Gowy Community Forum 8 February 2011.

Cheshire Landscape Trust: Hedge laying workshops 22 January and 13 February 2011.

Policing matters: On the Grapevine, Inspector's Updates; Homewatch Updates.

7 February

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Budget consultation Monday 17 January, 2011, HQ; Rural West Area Partnership Board Update; Highways Winter Maintenance Service; Traffic Regulation Order C836 Station Lane Guilden Sutton/Mickle Trafford; Member Briefing Note; Town and Parish Councils Bulletin; Waste Reduction campaign; Relationships with Town and Parish Councils; Survey of Town and Parish Council owned assets; Gowy Community Forum 8 February 2011; Future development control; Spotlight, keeping track of a national government issues for local government, Building a Big Society Monday 3 March 2011, Ellesmere Port.

Chester Voluntary Action: Funding conference 17 February 2011, Chester Racecourse.

Policing matters: On The Grapevine, Inspector's Updates, Police Authority budget/funding issues; Homewatch issues.

Big Lottery Conference 8 March 2011, London.

7 March

Procedural matters: Localism Bill.

Planning: Rural planning facilitation services.

Leisure Services: Greenway volunteer day 12 March 2011, 10am, Mickle Trafford access; RoSPA, playground inspections.

Finance: Parish Matters insurance newsletter.

Creating low carbon communities.

Cheshire Association of Local Councils/National Association of Local Councils: ChALC newsletter; NALC working lunches at 2011; Request for information re web sites; Appointments to Cheshire West and Chester Council Standards Committee.

Cheshire West and Chester Council: Rural West web pages; Olympic poster exhibition; Keeping track of national issues for local government; Partnership Bulletin 25; Members briefing notes.

Cheshire Community Action: Renewable energy and planning events; St Patrick's Day Celebration; Newsletter February 2011; Annual Review 2009-10; The Playing Field Winter 2010/11.

Policing: On the Grapevine; Rural Inspector's Updates; Budget reductions; Homewatch: Scams awareness, Cannabis farms, Security alarms.

Clerks and Councils Direct, March 2011.

Appeals: North West Air Ambulance; Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Development.

Local Government.

The following are extracts from the budget statements of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire Police Authority and Cheshire Fire Authority. .

Cheshire West and Chester Council heard that robust financial management would enable the authority to protect front line services and dispel concerns over closures of children's centres and libraries.

Cllr Les Ford, finance executive member and deputy leader, reported that from the council's opening budget in 2009 to the closing position in April this year, the council had saved £56m in costs.

Around £11m has been re-invested in front-line services, producing net savings of approximately £45m over the two years.

Said Cllr Ford: "The auditor's conclusion on our first set of accounts for 2009/10 was 'unqualified value for money'.

The auditor had added: "This Council is strong and confident and focused on providing modern and effective services that make a difference. The council is as well prepared as could be expected to cope with the pressures ahead."

The comprehensive spending review had produced a higher reduction than expected, meaning that the council needed to save £25.9m over the next two years and formula grant had been hit harder than the national average. Around £9.1m of grants had been removed altogether and £30m removed from the control of the council to the schools' ring-fenced budget.

Despite these setbacks, the budget earmarks almost £115m to provide leisure and culture facilities across the borough in the first phase of the capital vision from 2011-14. And it also allocates priority investments of £7.2m to children's services, including extra support for safeguarding children and £5.1m to adult social care and health to help meet growing demand on the service and pressure on learning disability budgets.

The 2011-12 budget also contains a £3.9m provision from reserves to cover redundancy costs. Around 140 full-time equivalent jobs – 2.5% of the workforce – are expected to go as part of the need to make savings.

It is hoped that many of these job losses will be accounted for by natural wastage – the number is well below the average staff turnover – or voluntary redundancy.

Cheshire Police Authority agreed to set a budget for policing in Cheshire of £177.2m. The budget seeks to minimise the impact of cuts in police funding on neighbourhood policing and roles that tackle criminal activity and protect vulnerable people.

Police Authority chairman, Margaret Ollerenshaw said: "This has been the most difficult budget the authority has had to develop. It is quite depressing to see the level of cuts we are having to make, following the considerable work of the authority over the last 16 years to develop the constabulary so that it has the capability and capacity to make Cheshire safer and protect the public from harm. "The performance of the constabulary is good. Public satisfaction levels with policing have never been better and crime is at its lowest level for 30 years.

"This year, setting the budget has been very challenging as we wanted to prevent damage to frontline policing. We have identified the necessary £11m savings this year by reducing costs and changing the way we work, the equipment we buy and reviewing the buildings we own. It is with deep regret that we will have to reduce police officer numbers by 62 by not replacing them as they retire or leave, police officer recruitment will be restricted to just 24 new officers and 27 police staff will be made redundant to balance the budget. We are keen to ensure that staff facing redundancy will be provided with the appropriate support and advice needed to help them through these difficult times. In trying to minimise the impact on the front-line, we have already deployed 35 police officers based in headquarters to local communities".

The authority says the level of council tax has been frozen this year, so the people of Cheshire will be paying the same for their policing as last year meaning that a Band D household will pay £144.53 per year for policing.

However, the challenge doesn't end this year as the coalition government has reduced police funding which means that over the next four years, a total of £35.4m savings will have to be made. During that timescale, police officer numbers could reduce by as many as 213 and police staff by 446.

The chairman added: "In the 17 years that I have been involved with the police authority, this has been the most challenging decision we have had to take. This time, we have had to ensure that we have the right people in the right place with the right skills working to continue to keep people safe and we believe we have set a budget which can achieve that given the economic climate."

Cheshire Fire Authority: New fire engines and specialist systems to help identify and protect vulnerable residents are among investments planned by Cheshire Fire Authority over the next 12 months.

Members set the organisation's budget for 2011/12 at £44.3m and agreed its tax level should stay unchanged at £66.43 for a Band D home.

Fire Authority Chair Cllr David Topping said the freeze had been possible due to nearly £2 million in efficiencies and savings which meant key safety projects could still be supported.

"These are very difficult times for residents and I am delighted that we won't have to ask them to pay any more for the services we provide," he said. "Like all workers in the public sector, our staff will not be getting a pay rise but the budget we have approved will still allow us to invest in frontline services so we can protect the communities we serve and ensure our fire crews are properly equipped. I believe providing a first class fire and rescue service for less than £1.28 a week for an average household represents excellent value for money."

At the meeting authority members also agreed to freeze their allowances at existing levels.

Key safety projects planned over the next 12 months include:

Buying two new standard fire engines and a specialist midi appliance with 4 wheel drive at a cost of over £700,000
£100,000 to improve facilities at fire stations for firefighters and the community
A £29,500 annual programme to replace the specialist thermal image cameras carried on every fire engine
£12,000 for using technology which will help further improve how staff can identify and support at risk households.
The projects follow a near £1 million investment over the last 12 months which has seen new protective clothing and breathing apparatus for all firefighters.

Contact the Council

Information. The Council's e mail address is info@guildensutton.org.uk and its web site is at www.guildensutton.org.uk

Future meetings: Future meetings of the Council are due to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Mondays 9 or 16 May, 6 June, 18 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December, 2011.

All meetings include public speaking time and residents are welcome to attend and address the Council. Councillors also hold a surgery at 10am in Summerfield Road on the Saturday prior to each Parish Council meeting.

Contact Councillors Trisha Paterson (Chairman), 300307, Imogen Brown 300812, Alan Davis 303022, Danny Fisher 301398, Derek Hughes 300185, Jane Hughes 300863, Michelle Kerfoot 300644 and Bill Moulton 348473 or the Clerk, David Norbury, 1 Orchard Croft, Guilden Sutton, CHESTER, CH3 7SL, 300783.

Mr Brian Lewin 301501 is the Rights of Way Warden. The Parish Tree Wardens are Cllr Brown 300812 and Mr Alan Young, 301558. Cllr Jane Hughes deals with recycling issues. Cllr Moulton is the Local Bus User Contact.

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