

Guiden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 February 2011 in Guiden Sutton Village Hall.

Chairman: Cllr P M Paterson.

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

In attendance: Cllr S Parker, Mrs M Parker.

1 Procedural matters.

(i) Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Kerfoot.

Apologies were received from Cllr B J Bailey and PC R Boulton.

(ii) Declarations of interest.

Members were reminded that they should declare any personal interest which they had in any matter or item to be considered at the meeting. Any declaration must be made before the matter, or item, was considered or as soon as the Member became aware a declaration was required. Similarly, if the interest was also a prejudicial one, this must be declared and the Member must leave the room after making a statement should they so wish under clause 12 (ii) of the code. Declarations were a personal matter for each Member to decide. The decision to declare, or not, was the responsibility of the Member based on the particular circumstances.

(iii) Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 10 January 2011. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 10 January 2011 where proposed by Cllr W Moulton, seconded by Cllr J Hughes and agreed as a correct record.

(iv) Dates of future meetings:

Mondays 7 March, 4 April, 9 May, 6 June, 18 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December, 2011.

It was noted the April meeting would be preceded by the annual parish meeting commencing at 7pm.

The Clerk informed he was ascertaining if it would be possible to hold the annual meeting of the Council on the proposed date of Monday 9 May, 2011 given the election would have taken place on the immediately preceding Thursday which raised a question as to due notice.

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

(vi) Sustainable Communities Act. The Clerk reported the receipt of an update, dated 2 February 2011, from Local Works, the lobbyists promoting the legislation. This included the possibility of a community right to purchase, the exclusion of gardens from the classification of previously developed land and approval for Sheffield City Council to maintain and sustain the local Post Office network.

Town and Parish Councils and community groups were now able to submit proposals directly to the Government but it was noted this must be preceded by community engagement for which a best practice guide was available.

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

(viii) Appointment of a community governor to Guiden Sutton CE (Controlled) Primary School. In response to a query from Cllr D Hughes the Clerk confirmed that notice of his formal nomination to continue as a community governor at Guiden Sutton CE (Controlled) Primary School had been sent to the Clerk to the Governors.

(ix) Royal Garden Party 2011. The Clerk informed of the receipt of an invitation from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils for the Council, if it wished, to nominate the present Chairman to attend a Royal Garden Party to be held on Wednesday 29 June 2011 if successful in a ballot to take place on 7 March 2011. 10/11 135

It was proposed by Cllr J Hughes, seconded by Cllr D Fisher and agreed unanimously that Cllr Paterson should be so nominated in recognition of past service. In response to a query by Cllr Fisher, the Clerk indicated it would be appropriate for the Council to meet reasonable expenses.

2 Community engagement.

(i) Public speaking time.

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.

(ii) Report of surgery held on Saturday 5 February 2011. 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.**

3 Planning.

(i) New applications.

Further to the Clerk informing that no new applications had been received in recent months, the Clerk reported he had searched the local planning authority website and this had confirmed there were no applications of which the Council had been unaware.

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.

(ii) Decision notices.

The Clerk informed there were none to report.

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(iii) Parish Plan.

(a) Progress report. The Chairman informed work on the first draft of the parish plan had been completed. This was welcomed.

(b) Christleton Community Plan. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Village Design Statement. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) Strategic Planning.

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

(b) Gypsy and Traveller issues. The Clerk confirmed he intended to meet the Cheshire Partnership Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer in due course.

(vi) 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.

4 Quality Council issues.

(i) Training: (a) Power to Promote Well Being. At an appropriate stage, the Council would revisit the possibility of training being requested from the County Office. (b) General. Members would indicate to the Clerk should they wish to attend sessions listed in the schedule of training dates for 2011 which had been circulated. **Action: All Members.**

(ii) Moving Towards Quality Parish Council Status. (a) Conduct of Council business. The NALC model standing orders would be considered by the Quality Council group which now consisted of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Brown and the Clerk. The Clerk informed of the availability from the National Association of Local Councils of a guide on the administration law for local councils in England and Wales. He also advised the Council's current copy of Local Council Administration was now some years old. It was agreed the Clerk should make further inquiries as to the cost of both publications. (b) Work programme. Following the initial meeting which had taken place to enable the group to consider the requirements which would have to be met by the Council if it was to achieve Quality Parish Council status, a further meeting had taken place on Wednesday 28 January 2011 to review progress. The Clerk informed it was now apparent the Council did not at present meet the electoral mandate although it was hoped this would be rectified at the May elections. In the meantime, he suggested work should continue to complete the portfolio to pre assessment stage as, if the mandate was then met, the application could be considered, with others in a similar position, shortly after the election. **Action: Noted.**

5 Parish car park.

(i) Grounds maintenance. Performance against specification by the contractor, including the need for the grass to be cut on a regular basis and for weeds to be removed from the hard surface would continue to be closely monitored. It was not known at this stage whether the proposed spraying of weeds, referred to at the previous meeting, had taken place.

(ii) Improvement scheme. (a) Boundary treatment. There was nothing further to report at this stage. 10/11 137

(iii) Rear boundary wall. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iv) Replacement signboard. This was being progressed with the signwriter. Further to the signwriter requesting the Council should arrange for two new mounting posts and to the Clerk reporting the receipt of an estimate in the sum of £118.14 plus VAT, the Clerk confirmed the estimate had been accepted.

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

6 Leisure Services

(i) Children's Playing Field:

(a) Grounds maintenance issues. The continued absence of a bag in the litter bin was being raised by Cllr D Hughes with the contractor. **Action: Cllr D Hughes.** The Chairman reported as to her most recent inspection.

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

(c) State of nets. Repairs had been deferred to early Spring. **Action: Cllr D Hughes.**

(d) Basket ball equipment. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Children's Play Area.

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

(b) Inspections. (i) Annual statutory inspection. The Clerk informed he had sought further information as to the free inspection understood to be available from the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association but that to date no response had been received. He reminded the Council that the inspector who had carried out the statutory inspection in 2009 had informed it was proposed to offer a block inspection for 2010 on the same basis. It was agreed that for 2010, the Council would seek to appoint the previous inspector. (ii) Rota. The Chairman would recirculate the report form. **Action: The Chairman.** (iii) Routine Inspections. Cllr Fisher suggested the equipment was showing signs of wear and referred to the condition of the wooden benches. Cllr J Hughes advised of the trend towards wooden equipment. Following a suggestion by Cllr Brown the equipment might be repainted, advice would be sought by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

(c) Bin emptying. The Chairman informed she had emptied the litter bin.

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

(e) Replacement of safety surfacing. The Clerk advised that following his approach to Cheshire West and Chester Council, external funding officers had helpfully provided a comprehensive suggestion as to possible sources of grant. The Clerk informed he would report further. **Action: The Clerk.**

(f) Risk assessment. Further to the helpful comments by Cllr Fisher and the Council revisiting 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 pursuing 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. **Action: The Clerk.**

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. The Clerk informed he had thanked the officer for his advice.

(iii) Public Footpaths.

(a) Footpath 7. Further to Cllr Paterson informing of low branches from trees overhanging the route, which it was noted would be the responsibility of the landowner, there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the comments by the Public Rights of Way Warden relating to an inspection by the Tree Officer, with particular reference to concerns that branches could fall on the right of way. Mr Lewin believed the trees were dying back and declining rapidly.

(b) Footpath 2: Clearance and sweeping. Further to the Clerk informing he had met the Streetscene Area Manager to inspect progress towards improving the condition of this path together with the dingle steps, the current condition of the steps was being further reported. **Action: The Clerk.**

(c) Footpath 1. A response was awaited from the Public Rights of Way Unit as to the comments of the Public Rights of Way Warden relating to the condition of part of this route in the vicinity of Belle Vue Cottage and that of the adjoining stile.

(d) Rights of Way Group. (i) Bank account There was nothing further to add at this stage to Cllr D Hughes informing he held the cheque book and that money could be expended on footpath related projects. (ii) Disposal of equipment. Further to the comments of the Public Rights of Way Warden as to the disposal of a heavy duty strimmer held by the group, the Clerk was, in the first instance, offering the equipment to Messrs Gresty. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

(f) Greenway. (i) Cyclists/Pedestrians. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to additional signage to inform both cyclists and pedestrians emerging from the Garners Lane access and traffic on Guilden Sutton Lane. (ii) Surface, Garners Lane. Further to the comments made by the Public Rights of Way Warden as to the unsatisfactory condition of areas of the existing surfacing of Garners Lane, a response was awaited from the Public Rights of Way Unit to which the issue had been referred. (iii) Garners Lane, ownership. Further to the Clerk informing he had contacted the Public Rights of Way Unit to ascertain the ownership of Garners Lane, the Council was disappointed that a response was still awaited to this and the inquiries referred to above. (iv) Use by horse riders. A Member and the Clerk reported separately as to complaints which had been received that horse riders using the restricted byway were being advised they should not do so. There were concerns as to the manner in which this advice had been given. The Clerk informed he had advised the Friends of the Millennium Greenway that Garners Lane was available to equine users and that this would be confirmed by the Public Rights of Way Unit. (v) Pond Project. The Clerk reported the receipt of advice, dated 1 February 2011, that the Friends of the Millennium Greenway were to carry out work in connection with a pond project on Saturday 12 February 2011 at 10am. **Action: Noted.**

(g) Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2016. The Clerk reported the receipt, by correspondence dated 12 January, 2011, of consultation on this draft plan. It was noted a response was due by 15 April, 2011. The Clerk informed he had notified the Public Rights of Way Warden of the consultation and that the Council would be pleased to consider any views he may wish to put forward.

(iv) Grounds Maintenance. (a) Vale. There was nothing further to report at this stage. (b) Parish Council contract 2010/11. Further to the Council noting that a further family bereavement together with uncertainty as to the future of the lengthsman service and more recently adverse weather had impacted upon the performance of the contract, the Clerk confirmed he had met the contractor to visit outstanding issues. Progress was in prospect. As requested, the Clerk had circulated a copy of the specification for the contract for Members' consideration.

(v) Public Seats. The Clerk informed he had raised with Messrs Gresty the need for repairs to the damage to the seat in Wicker Lane and for the repainting of that seat and the seat in Guilden Sutton Lane, for which an estimate of £96 for work to both seats had been accepted.

(vi) Fox Cover. (i) Landscaping. The Clerk informed a response was awaited to his approach to Cheshire West and Chester Council as to the verge being included in a schedule. (ii) Replacement 'no ball games' sign. It was noted this sign had been erected.

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

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(viii) Multi use games area. There was nothing further to report at this stage in the absence of Cllr Kerfoot .

(ix) Cheshire West and Chester Council open space assessment and audit. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the draft report on the outcome of this assessment, due to be available early in the New Year. **Action: Noted.**

(x) Community Garden. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(xi) Equine interests. Cllr J Hughes believed there was a need for information to assist motorists when passing horse riders on roads within the parish. The Clerk suggested he might approach the British Horse Society for advice which could be included in the newsletter. This was agreed. **Action: The Clerk.**

7 Public transport.

(i) C27. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

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

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

(v) Further to Members and the Clerk receiving correspondence from the Skipton-East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership seeking support for the reopening of a link between Colne and Skipton which would improve trans Pennine journey times, for which it was noted there was widespread support including the Cheshire West and North Wales Chamber of Commerce, the University of Chester and the Bishop of Chester, the Clerk confirmed he had informed the Partnership the Council supported value for money investment in rail infrastructure such as the Halton Curve and the reopening of the link between Colne and Skipton.

8 Highways.

(i) Major schemes.

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Issues with highway authority. The Clerk was pleased to report the receipt of this updated response from the Area Highways Manager.

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.

10/11 140

Church Lane.

Condition of cycle route Church Lane - Cinder Lane. *Raised with Streetscene Area Manager.*
STREETSCENE

Request for barrier to prevent reported use by motorcycles. *Update requested from Streetscene Area Manager.*
STREETSCENE

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.*
STREETSCENE

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 -

10/11 141

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.

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.

10/11 142

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.*
PRIVATE LAND

Elsewhere -

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

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

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.*

10/11 143

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. Policy? Detailed locations to be provided by Parish Council.

Parish Council to confirm locations prior to logging on.

10/11 144

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.

(iii) Current issues

(a) Speed issues. Further to the previous report by Cllr Moulton, it was noted a further meeting with the Police was due to take place on 15 February 2011. A response was awaited from Cllr Bailey as to the impression given that Cheshire West and Chester Council had no policy in place for speed or Community Speedwatch issues and that the speed limit review was to be discontinued.

Cllr D Hughes requested that Cheshire West and Chester Council's policy on funding speed cameras, as a member of the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, should be ascertained. This would be raised with Cllr S Parker. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

(c) Speed review, Guilden Sutton Lane. The Clerk informed he was awaiting a response to his renewed approach to the highway authority as to the status of the intended 30mph limit.

(d) Speed review, Wicker Lane/Hare Lane. The issue remained with the Area Highways Manager. The more recent request made by Mrs Earlam for a reduced speed limit on Wicker Lane and the installation of a permanent speed indicator device also stood referred.

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

(f) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. See minute 17 (iii).

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

(h) Over riding, Summerfield Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage following the installation of 3 no cycle racks to deter vehicles over riding the footway to reach the Village Hall car park.

(i) Junction A41/Guilden Sutton Lane. This was being dealt with by Cllr Bailey. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence, dated 20 January 2011, from a resident expressing disappointment that one of two vehicles seen stationary in the gap in the central reservation was a police car. The occupier had expressed concern that the police vehicle was standing on the crossed white lines. This would be brought to the attention of PC Boulton who was known to be aware of the Council's concerns about this practice. The Clerk pointed out it may have been the case the officer had been making his way. **Action: The Clerk.**

(j) Road signs. Members would advise the Clerk if they became aware of any road signs in and around the village which were obscured by vegetation. Further to the concern expressed by Cllr D Hughes as to the condition of a School Lane nameplate at the war memorial and to the highway authority advising that it might be preferable for the parish council to secure the repainting of the existing cast nameplate, rather than its replacement by a pressed nameplate, as this would be more in keeping, an estimate had been sought by the Clerk from the signwriter and was awaited.

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

- (l) Porters Hill. The issue raised by Cllr D Hughes concerning poor visibility encountered by motorists driving up the hill and a suggestion that traffic signals might improve safety together with the effect of trees overhanging the road had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.
- (m) Path, Cinder Lane to Church Lane. (i) Condition. The condition of this path had been raised with the Area Highways Manager who had referred the matter to Streetscene. (ii) Use by motor cycles. The complaint to the Public Rights of Way Warden as to the use of this path by motorcyclists had been raised with the Area Highways Manager and had been referred to Streetscene.
- (n) Footway, Guilden Sutton lane, obstruction by nettles, brambles and an overgrown hedge respectively. The issue had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.
- (o) Parish boundary signs (i) Guilden Sutton Lane. The state of this sign had been raised with the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above. (ii) Station Lane. It was noted this sign had been moved to the opposite side of the road.
- (p) Flooding, Church Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage to the response of the Area Highways Manager minuted above.
- (q) Verges, Guilden Sutton Lane CDS. Further to this issue being raised with the Area Highways Manager and to a response being received, there was nothing further to report at this stage.
- (r) Speed limit, Station Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage other than that minuted above.
- (s) Flooding, Wicker Lane. Further to Cllr J Hughes revisiting her concerns that following the completion of the remedial works, the measure did not appear to have been entirely successful, the matter had been brought to the notice of the highway authority and Cllr Hughes was pleased to report a helpful site visit had been made by the Inspector and initial further measures were proposed.
- (t) Planters. The highways authority was being informed the preferred locations were thought to be at the Guilden Sutton boundary signs at Guilden Sutton Lane and Wicker Lane and in the grass verge opposite the properties on Station Lane. **Action: The Clerk.** Confirmation was awaited that suitably inscribed self watering planters would be provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- (u) Steps, Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of these steps had been reported to the Area Highways Manager whose response was minuted above.
- (v) Subsidence, reinstatement Guilden Sutton Lane. The condition of the reinstatement on this heavily trafficked section of the road was being monitored. Cllr Fisher said he believed there should be improved control over the standard of reinstatement by utility companies following their work. The Clerk indicated his understanding the highway authority now had less power to carry out inspections.
- (w) Church Lane/Wicker Lane. There was nothing further to report this stage as to the further complaint from Mrs Y Kirk that although the growth at the junction of Church Lane and Wicker Lane, which obscured the Church Lane sign, had initially been dealt with, regrowth had occurred and the area should be cut back as regularly as other verges in the village. This had been referred to the highway authority.
- (x) School Lane. In the absence of Cllr Kerfoot, there was nothing further to report at this stage as to the work in progress to improve the boundary treatment at a property adjoining the narrower length of footway on Porters Hill.
- (y) Traffic management. Further to Cllr Moulton informing of the opportunity to inform the Police of locations at which a survey of the volume, type and speed of traffic would be of benefit, there was a nothing further to report at this stage as to the suggestion by Cllr J Hughes that such a survey should be carried out on Wicker Lane.
- (z) 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 recent adverse weather, the Clerk informed he had written to the Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council. 10/11 146
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. **Action: Noted.**

(za) White lining. Further to the request by Cllr D Hughes for a white line to be provided at the junction of Hill Top Road and Arrowcroft Road, Arrowcroft Road being a school access, the issue was with the highway authority.

(zb) Fingerpost signs. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(zc) Guilden Sutton Day Nursery. The Clerk reported the receipt of copy correspondence dated 13 January 2011 from the Guilden Sutton Day Nursery to the Area Highways Manager requesting approval for a small sign on Guilden Sutton Lane to deal with a problem experienced by the day nursery in visitors finding the business. Cllr Moulton, as local Member, confirmed that vehicles using satellite navigation and others who had missed the estate signboard were being misdirected. **Action: Noted.**

(iv) Lighting. There were no faults to be reported.

9 Finance:

(i) Income:

Co-operative Bank
Interest

5 January 2011 £ 1.67

Scottish Widows no 1
Interest 1 January 2011 £ 0.00

Scottish Widows no 2
Interest 1 January 2011 £ 1.99

(ii) Payments:

St John's PCC
Graveyard grant £ 250.00

Mrs P M Paterson
Prize voucher £ 10.00

Clerk

Photocopies
415@5p £ 20.75

Mileage
8@ 40p £ 3.20
£ 23.95

Proposed by Cllr J Hughes
Seconded by Cllr D Hughes
and agreed.

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(iii) Balances

Co-operative Bank 26 January 2011	£ 9,938.91
Scottish Widows no 1 1 October 2010	£20,210.84
Scottish Widows no 2 1 January 2011	£ 3,161.41

(iv) Report on contingency payments.

Budget:	£ 455.00
Payments:	£ 0.00

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

(vi) Budget 2011/12. The Clerk confirmed that a precept of £16,423 had been requested.

10 Environment Services:

(i) Recycling issues. (a) Chester waste collection and recycling contract. Members were reminded that Cllr Bailey had asked to be informed of any concerns arising under the new contract. (b) Waste Reduction Volunteer campaign. The receipt of a request for information as to events taking place up to 31 March 2011 and the availability of newsletters was noted.

(ii) Amenity cleansing. (a) Grot spots. Members would advise the Clerk of locations at which they believed action was necessary. **Action: All Members.** It was noted a tyre had been deposited on the dingle path. Litter in the vicinity of the Village Hall raised at the surgery held on Saturday 5 February 2011 would be raised the contractor. **Action: The Clerk.** (b) Litter pickers. The Clerk had secured prices for litter pickers and would report further. **Action: The Clerk.** (c) Streetscene. Further to the meeting held with Streetscene officers of Cheshire West and Chester Council to discuss the application of the proposed new base level Streetscene standards within the parish and to officers agreeing to inspect the difficult areas within the parish with the Clerk, the Council continued to be concerned that to date the proposed site meeting had not taken place.

(iii) Dog fouling: Requests for additional bins. Further to Cllr Davis informing of a request for an additional bin on the dingle path towards Belle Vue Lane, and to Mr J Dale suggesting there was also a need for bins on Belle Vue Lane, School Lane and at the approach to the Millennium Greenway, the previous comments of the Public Rights of Warden as to the prospect of a bin at the approach to the Greenway had been noted. The request for a bin at Cathcart Green would not be progressed on public amenity grounds due to overlooking from adjoining housing in close proximity. There would be no objection to a sign.

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

11 Trees and Hedges.

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

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

(iii) Hedges, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to add to that minuted above following action taken by the adjoining landowner.

(iv) Land, Church Lane. Further to the Council being informed of overhanging branches to trees on private land which it was thought could be a potential hazard, the Clerk was informing the Public Rights of Way Unit given their proximity to public footpath no 2.

(v) Hedge, opposite play area. There was no response at this stage as to the request made to Cheshire West and Chester Council for this to be cut.

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

(vii) Sycamore, Memorial Garden. The Clerk was completing the application form which would seek approval for a 30% reduction in the first instance with the successful contractor being requested to report on the condition of the tree on ascending the Sycamore in order to inform any decision as to felling.

(viii) Hedge off Hill Top Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the school access adjacent to the end terrace property which was obstructed by the hedge. This had been reported to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(ix) Trees adjoining footpath 2. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(x) Trees, Oaklands. Further to the Clerk informing the Tree Warden had been approached by an occupier on Oaklands concerned that the cause of a highway tree dying back on the other side of the road might be a fungus which could affect an Oak close to her own property and to Tree Officers indicating the cause of death was damage, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(xi) Trees adjacent to Summerfield House. Further to Cllr Brown, as Tree Warden, indicating the manager had expressed concerns, the Chairman informed Cllr B J Bailey had the matter in hand.

(xii) Tree felling A41. Further to a Member referring to tree felling on land adjacent to the A41 close to the parish boundary, further inquiries by the Clerk had disclosed the work, including replanting, had approval.

(xiii) Pruning of verge trees. A Member expressed concerned at the pruning of trees in a highway verge. The issue would be raised with the highway authority. Action: The Clerk.

(xiv) Trees, rear of Oaklands. A Member expressed concern that trees at the rear of properties on Oaklands were obstructing a footway on the Village Hall car park. It was agreed a note should appear in the Newsletter.

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(i) Chester Area Meeting. The Clerk informed the meeting of the Area Meeting held on Wednesday 19 January 2010 had been addressed by the Development Planning Manager. A special meeting was to take place on Tuesday 8 February 2011 at 8pm in HQ to discuss relationships between the Area Meeting and Cheshire West and Chester Council's Community Forums and Area Partnership Boards. The Clerk informed he had met the Director, Local Strategic Partnerships to visit these issues.

(ii) Pay settlement 2010/11 and 2011/12. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Quality Parish Council Forum 18 February 2011. The Clerk informed he hoped be able to attend this forum to which Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans was to speak and answer questions on the coalition Government's vision of the Big Society and the role of local councils within that concept.

(iv) Transfer of services and assets. The Clerk reported a half day seminar was be held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at 1pm in Winsford to discuss issues relating to the possible transfer by Cheshire West and Chester Council of some services and assets to Town and Parish Councils. Action: Noted.

13 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

- (i) Service delivery to local councils: service base levels. There was nothing further to report to that minuted above.
- (ii) Electoral Review, Cheshire West and Chester. The Council noted the information provided by Cllr S Parker as to the Conservative Party candidates for the new Cheshire Villages ward.
- (iii) Maintenance of Churchyards and Burial Grounds. Further to the Clerk indicating he was pleased to be able to report he had obtained a grant of £250, this payment to the PCC had been agreed above.
- (iv) Draft statement of licensing policy re sex establishments. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
- (v) Goway Community Forum. It was noted the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Tuesday 8 February 2011.
- (vi) Town and Parish Councils Seminars. The Clerk reported he had attended the briefing on the Cheshire West and Chester Council budget held at HQ on Monday 17 January 2011. Town and Parish Councils had been able to give their views on the budget and also on aspects including community transport, mobile libraries and community facilities such as halls and play areas in which Town and Parish Councils might have a greater involvement in the provision of services. The argument that finance should follow function had appeared to be accepted by the principal authority. The perceived lack of any relationship between town and parish councils and the Rural West Area Partnership Board had been raised.
- (vii) Community safety wardens. Further to the Clerk reporting the receipt of a poster advertising the contact telephone number for anti social behaviour to be reported to the community safety wardens, he was making arrangements for this to be displayed. **Action: The Clerk.**
- (viii) Waste reduction volunteer scheme. Further to Cllr Moulton informing of this campaign to promote waste reduction, the information would be displayed on the parish noticeboards.
- (ix) Local Transport Plan. There was nothing further to report at this stage.
- (x) 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.

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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 support 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.”

(xi) Contact card. Further to the suggestion that Cheshire West and Chester Council might produce a card showing the telephone numbers which people should contact with frequently raised issues, there was nothing further to report at this stage, the matter having been raised with the parish liaison officer.

(xii) Street orderly grants. The Clerk reminded Members the former Chester City Council street orderly scheme would cease with effect from 1 April 2011. The Council was able to claim for the second six months of the 2010/11 financial year but the Clerk was aware the contractor's litter picking activities had been disrupted for certain periods. He had discussed this with the contractor who had advised the claim should be reduced by five weeks. This had been taken into account and a claim had been submitted for £265.02p.

(xiii) Building a Big Civil Society. The Clerk informed of the seminar to take place on Monday 7 March, 2011 at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall organised by West Cheshire Together to help develop a West Cheshire a Big Society Action Plan. Members wishing to attend would advise the Clerk.

(xiv) Property portfolios The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence, dated 28 January 2011, of a proposal by the Asset Manager, Cheshire West and Chester Council to list the property portfolios of Town and Parish Councils in Rural West. The Clerk had confirmed that this related to buildings and had replied accordingly.

14 Cheshire Community Action. The Clerk reported the receipt of details of the Community Pride Competition 2011 and inviting the community to participate.

15 CPRE. There were no action items to report.

16 Health. There were no action items to report.

17 Policing.

(i) Western Police Area Question Time. Cllrs D Hughes and Moulton reported on the Question Time held on Thursday 20 January 2011 at St Mary's Centre, Chester which had been attended by the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Cheshire Police Authority. The agenda had included a report on the implications of the Police Authority budget and the objectives of the Police service. Cllr Hughes informed he had taken the opportunity to speak to the Rural Inspector expressing the Council's appreciation of the services of PC Boulton.

The Clerk reported the receipt of information relating to the Police Authority budget, which was required to reduce by £22m over the next two years with a council tax freeze, the priorities for policing and Police reform.

(ii) Crime. The incident of anti social behaviour raised to the most recent surgery would be reported to PC Boulton.

Action: The Clerk.

(iii) Parking, Arrowcroft Road. Cllr D Hughes reported the problem continued and had led to further complaints from residents. It was hoped that PC Boulton would attend. The Council agreed it would support the issue of fixed penalty notices to those parking on and close to corners in contravention of the Highway Code. A suggestion was made by Cllr Moulton that parking issues in the cul de sac might be resolved if that entrance to the school was closed to pedestrians.

18 Newsletter. Further to Members noting the Government was proposing restrictions on Council newsletters, further inquiries would be made by the Clerk.

An approach was being progressed to the publishers of the new Gowy Gazette as to the newsletter being circulated with that publication. The reporting forms on the Cheshire West and Chester Council website would be publicised in a future edition. Following the suggestion of Cllr Fisher, PC Boulton was being informed the Council would be more than happy to include advice he may wish to put forward.

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

20 Bulb planting. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

22 Primary School. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

23 Land ownerships. Further consideration would be given to the suggestion by Cllr Paterson that it would be beneficial for the Council to compile a register of land ownerships which adjoined footways and public footpaths. Further to Mrs Batterham inquiring as to the ownership of a hedge adjoining her property which she wished to cut, inquiries were being made by the Clerk in an endeavour to assist Mrs Batterham. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

25 Community events. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

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

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

29 Guilden Sutton Community Association: constitution. Cllr J Hughes reported a further meeting had taken place on 17 January 2011 to discuss possible amendments to the constitution of the charity. The approach would now be to amend the existing constitution rather than frame an entirely new document. The hall management committee was expected to take on more of the work and the Executive would become more strategic. A draft was to be available on the website and the revised constitution would be launched in May at the annual meeting. A further meeting was to be held.

30 Member's information items.

There were no information items.

31 Information correspondence.

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.

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Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.

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

Nil.

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