

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 4 January 2016 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Cllr P M Paterson.

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

In attendance: One member of the public.

1 Procedural matters.

(a) Apologies for absence.

Members: There were no apologies.

Visitors. Apologies were received from Cllr M Parker, Cllr S Parker, Cllr P Hall, PC R Boulton. **Action: Noted.**

(b) Code of Conduct. Members were reminded they should declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or any Other Disclosable Interest which they may have 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.

Declarations were a personal matter for each Member to decide with the decision to declare, or not, being the responsibility of the Member based on the particular circumstances. Consideration should be given to any pecuniary interest, outside bodies interest or family, friends and close associates.

(c) Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 December 2015. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 December 2015 were proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Ringstead and agreed.

(d) Review of handling of information correspondence. The continued increase in the volume of information correspondence being received would be assessed by the Clerk at the request of Cllr Paterson pending a review by the Council as to arrangements for its handling.

(e) E circulation of Agendas. Further to Cllr Ringstead believing the acquisition of one suitable tablet would be of benefit for use on planning application consultations as this would also enable photographs to be taken if this was relevant, the acquisition of a suitable refurbished device, within a budget of £200, was being progressed by Cllr Fisher and the Clerk. It was noted a higher specification device might be available for a slightly higher figure to be agreed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman if necessary. **Action: Cllr Fisher/ the Clerk.**

(f) Dates of future meetings: Mondays 1 February, 7 March, 4 April, 9 May, 6 June, 11 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November and 5 December 2016.

(g) Late information report. The Clerk indicated that due to the Christmas and New Year break there was very little late information. This would be reported orally.

(h) Pipers Ash Advisory Panel. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(i) Transparency requirements. Further to the Clerk reporting the requirements imposed by the £25,000 threshold figure should be taken into account on a year by year basis but given the Council's commitment to transparency he would prefer to publish all the relevant information, much of which was already included on the web site, on a year by year basis irrespective of whether the threshold was reached, there was nothing further to report at this stage. This was subject to the agreement of the Webmaster with whom he was in discussion, to carrying out the additional work. **Action: The Clerk.**

(j) Parish Councils: Data Controllers. The Council noted the current position was that having consulted the ICO, the Clerk was registering as a data controller at a cost of £35pa. This was in line with advice received from ChALC following the receipt of correspondence from a third party by this and other councils. 15/16 127

The ChALC advice further suggested it was unlikely that Members would need to register as the receipt of e mails as distinct from holding case work files did not require a registration.

(k) Volunteer of the Year. Mr J Young. Further to the Chairman congratulating Mr Young on his splendid response to an incident involving a diabetic episode in circumstances when many may have chosen not to assist the patient, it was noted a voucher suggested by the Chairman and purchased from the village Post Office had been forwarded to Mr Young by the Clerk

(l) Parish representatives to Standards Committee. Members noted an invitation from ChALC to vote for parish representatives to the borough council's Standards committee as more nominations had been received than there were places. The papers would be referred to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for action. **Action: The Clerk.**

2 Community engagement.

(a) Public speaking.

Members of the public. There was no public speaking.

Visitors. None.

(b) Surgeries.

Report of surgery held on Saturday 2 January 2016. Cllrs Davis and Hughes had presided. Cllr Davis reported no issues had arisen. It was agreed those presiding at the surgery to be held on Saturday 30 January 2016 would be Cllrs Moulton and Roberts.

(c) Notice boards. Further to the issue raised at the December surgery, further inquiries as to the Guilden Sutton Lane noticeboard had been made by the Clerk. A Member advised that in his opinion only repainting would be necessary. The advice of a contractor would also be sought. **Action: The Clerk.** Further inquiries were being made by the Clerk as to what had been described as correspondence previously displayed on the Hare Lane noticeboard. **Action: The Clerk.**

3 Planning.

Discharge of conditions 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11 attached to planning permission 15/01196/S73
Land Adjacent To Treetops School Lane Guilden Sutton Chester
Ref. No: 15/04608/DIS | Received: Wed 11 Nov 2015 | Status: Approved. NEW NOTIFICATION.

Discharge of conditions 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11 of planning application 15/01299/FUL Open for Comment
Chester House Hare Lane Chester Cheshire CH3 7ED
Ref. No: 15/04453/DIS | Received: Wed 28 Oct 2015 | Status: Awaiting decision. NEW NOTIFICATION.

Single storey extensions to front and side and alterations
Village Hall Summerfield Road Guilden Sutton Chester Cheshire CH3 7SW
Ref. No: 15/04283/FUL | Received: Mon 19 Oct 2015 | Status: Approved. NEW NOTIFICATION.
Cllrs Davis, Fisher.

Members noted the applicant had been encouraged to maintain a 1 metre wide access along the side of the hall.

Cllr Fisher reiterated the need to have an understanding with the applicant as to the implications for the CCTV equipment during construction.

Two storey side extension, revision of previously approved application reference 15/01138/FUL.
16 Oaklands Guilden Sutton Chester Cheshire CH3 7HE
Ref. No: 15/04105/FUL | Received: Wed 07 Oct 2015 | Status: Approved. NEW NOTIFICATION.
Cllrs Paterson, Brown.

Pruning of sycamore and yew trees
Cedar Lodge School Lane Guilden Sutton Chester Cheshire CH3 7EU
Ref. No: 15/03979/TPO | Received: Fri 25 Sep 2015 | Status: Approved

First floor side extension and single storey rear extension
Bramble View Belle Vue Lane Guilden Sutton Chester Cheshire CH3 7EJ
Ref. No: 15/03777/FUL | Received: Tue 15 Sep 2015 | Status: Approved.

Cllrs Fisher, Ringstead.

Two storey side extension and front porch
8 Arrowcroft Road Guilden Sutton Chester Cheshire CH3 7ES
Ref. No: 15/03750/FUL | Received: Fri 11 Sep 2015 | Status: Approved

Cllrs Davis/Hughes.

Variation of condition 2 on application 13/05410/FUL to allow amendments to driveways and boundary treatments

Land Adjacent To Treetops School Lane Guilden Sutton Chester
Ref. No: 15/01196/S73 | Received: Mon 23 Mar 2015 | Status: Approved

Cllr Fisher.

The view of Cllr Fisher remained that part of the boundary treatment was not as permitted in that close boarded fencing had replaced the permitted brick pillars and infill panels.

(b) Unconventional energy sources. The Clerk invited the Council to note that following correspondence the operator had now confirmed the intention was to offer a briefing. A series of events for the community were proposed to talk about operations in the North West more broadly. The views of Great Boughton Parish Council were being ascertained. **Action: The Clerk.**

(c) Development control process. (i) e notifications. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Community planning.

(i) Parish Plan. There was nothing to report at this stage.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Paterson reported further. The Clerk informed a large scale map of the new parish boundaries was awaiting at the County office.

He further informed the suggestions received from Mrs S R Proctor, Ash Bank as to desirable actions in the newly acquired areas of Pipers Ash had now all been referred as appropriate. Those relating to spacial planning had been passed to the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. **Action: The Clerk.**

It was noted the Mickle Trafford and District Neighbourhood Area had been designated on 17 December 2015 by Cheshire West and Chester Council. Full details including the delegated report could be found by following the Mickle Trafford and District” link on the website at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.

(iii) Bird in Hand Support Group. Further to the owner, Mr Richard Bowyer, Structure & Design, indicating that options were under consideration and the Council would be kept informed, it was reported the premises had re-opened before Christmas. It was hoped patronage from within the village would support the business.

(e) Affordable housing. Willis Close. (i) Further to the visit by officers, who had been formally thanked for their attendance, there was some disappointment the promised response to Cllr Fisher, as to part of the boundary treatment being not as permitted in that close boarded fencing had replaced the approved brick pillars and infill panels, was still awaited. This would be pursued by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.** (ii) The Clerk advised he had assisted an unsuccessful applicant by referral to Adactus following an approach to this Council. The applicant, who formerly had ties to the village, had subsequently indicated she had been accepted. **Action: Noted.** (iii) Cllr Hughes informed he had delivered Footpath Maps to occupiers and was thanked. The Clerk informed he intended to deliver the two most recent newsletters together with useful telephone numbers and a copy of the C26 timetable. **Action: Noted.**

(f) Strategic Planning.

(i) Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies - Issues consultation. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan, consultation on proposed supplementary planning documents: Draft Houses in Multiple Occupation and Student Accommodation in the Chester Area SPD, Draft Travel Planning Guidance SPD. It was noted these consultations ended on the 4th inst.

4 Quality Council issues.

(a) Training.

(i) Training dates 2016. The Clerk informed the 2016 Training Calendar had now been received from ChALC and had been circulated separately.

(ii) Planning training. The Clerk informed a planning training session had been advised on 2 February, 2016 in Crewe. This would provide an independent look at the planning system and processes. Details had now been received regarding a Planning Forum with Cheshire West and Chester Council proposed for Tuesday 23 February 2016 intended to improve relations and understanding between local councils and the planning officers. ChALC was looking to run two sessions, afternoon and evening. Cllrs Paterson and Ringstead indicated. **Action: The Clerk.**

Members wishing to attend any of these training opportunities would advise the Clerk. **Action: All Members.**

(b) Standing Orders review. This would now be incorporated within any Award Scheme application.

(c) Local Council Award Scheme. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

5 Parish car park.

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

(b) Improvement scheme. Members remained of the view that a concrete boundary topped by cobbles would be the preferred solution if a suitable contractor could be found. In the meantime the effect of the works completed by the previous grounds maintenance contractor was being kept under review. **Action: All Members.**

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

(d) Trees. The Clerk was informing the Warden of the previous price and date. **Action: The Clerk.** Further to the advice from the tree contractor of a split in the left hand side rear tree, the warden would inspect although the advice was no action was required at present. **Action: Cllr Brown.**

6 Leisure Services

(a) Children's Playing Field.

(i) Grounds maintenance issues including litter bin emptying. There were no issues to report.

(ii) Mole infestation. The Clerk advised there was presently one possible mole hill.

(iii) Further to a Member informing of the encroachment of an adjoining boundary hedge and to the issue being raised by the grounds maintenance, the matter was being progressed with the occupier by Cllr Davis and The Clerk. **Action: Cllr Davis/The Clerk.**

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

(v) Inspections. The Clerk advised there were no current issues.

(vi) Playing Pitch Study. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(vii) Playing field provision. The issue remained with the Vice Chairman. It had been agreed a further written approach should be made to the landowner and to landowners within the parish as to a possible purchase.

(b) Children's Play Area.

(i) CCTV and CCTV protocol. (a) Upgrade. Further to Cllr Hughes expressing concern at the amount of money which had historically been expended on the system, Cllr S R Ringstead advised of a possible alternative. This was being examined.

(ii) Inspections. Corrosion affecting the 4 no benches had been reported to the supplying contractor. An inspection was to be made. Further to the Clerk advising a formal inspection report for December 2015 had been received from Northwich Town Council (inspections during the season having been incorporated within grounds maintenance work) with a recommendation the sign relating to the age group the playground was intended for, which was damaged, should be replaced, an estimate was being sought for a replacement.

Action: The Clerk.

(iii) Replacement children's playground. The Clerk was providing Cllr Hughes with a CAD image of the project as proposed. **Action: The Clerk.**

(iv) Grounds maintenance issues including boundary hedging. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(v) Smoke free playgrounds. Further to the Clerk reporting he had been advised the cost of signage to be provided by the borough council promoting the playground as smoke free would be £32.30, which had been accepted, he had now been informed that affixing the signage would fall to the Parish Council. **Action: Noted.**

(c) Public Footpaths.

(i) Restricted Byway no 7 proposed improvement. Further to the Council noting the Public Rights of Way Officer (North Chester & Ellesmere Port) had indicated no objection to the proposed improvement subject to prior approval, which was being progressed through the Volunteer Public Rights of Way Warden, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Footpath 2. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

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

(iv) Footpath 3. Further to the concerns expressed by the Volunteer Public Rights of Way Warden as to the state of the bank and a leaning wall adjacent to Footpath 3 at the rear of houses on Cinder Lane, there was nothing further to report at this stage. The matter would be revisited by the Clerk with the warden in due course. **Action: The Clerk.**

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

(vi) Mid Cheshire Footpath Society. There were no action items to report.

(vii) Greenway, Mobility access, Garners Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Grounds Maintenance. (i) Cheshire West and Chester. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(ii) Parish Council contract 2015/16. It was agreed Cllr Hughes and the Clerk would attend the review meeting to be sought with Northwich Town Council. **Action: The Clerk.**

(e) Public Seats: Guilden Sutton Lane/Wicker Lane. Members continued to note the Council would need to consider action for future maintenance following the closure of Messrs Deva Forge. Advice would be sought as to the capacity of Northwich Town Council. **Action: The Clerk.**

(f) Fox Cover: Landscaping. Continued growth in this area was being monitored.

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

(h) Wild flower meadow. The Chairman and Members reported further as to the planting of the marsh marigold seeds which had been purchased.

(i) Hare Lane beacon. The overgrowth issue remained with Cllr Pamela Hall, Great Boughton ward, who was kindly pursuing the matter with officers in the absence of any progress report (reference 101003171145.) It continued to be noted that the present overgrowth in the area, which was not existing when the beacon was installed, somewhat precluded crowds gathering.

(j) Open Space, Sport and Recreation study, Town and Parish Councils, Needs and aspirations. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to this survey which had been dealt with by Cllr Paterson due to links with the neighbourhood plan.

(k) Active Cheshire. Further to the Council considering and accepting the offer from Active Cheshire to present to the Council, this would now be deferred to the March 2016 meeting. The presentation would include the Active Cheshire Plan, local issues around transport, facilities, access to services, young people and rural isolation and opportunities available through Active Cheshire and Sport England.

(l) Cultural Services Review - Public Consultation (Cheshire West and Chester Council). There was nothing further to report at this stage.

7 Public transport.

(a) Services, general.

(i) DB8. Willis Close. The Vice Chairman and Clerk reported further as to concerns as to the safety of alighting passengers due to lack of adequate street lighting. This stood referred to Mr John Ellis Jones, Assistant Team Leader, Planning and Strategic Transport, Places Strategy who had advised he had passed the issue to the Infrastructure Team. It was understood an inspection had been made. Cllr Roberts referred to the intention that Member Budgets might deal with such issues. **Action: Noted.** Cllr Davis referred to the proximity of a substantial dead branch overhanging the stop. **Action: The Clerk.**

(ii) Withdrawal of C27 replaced by C26. The Clerk informed he was now pursuing the offered meeting with John Ellis Jones Esq, Assistant Team Leader, Planning and Strategic Transport, Places Strategy and would advise residents of Summerfield House.

(b) Bus stand, Guilden Sutton Lane. Overgrowth at this stand continued to be monitored, Cllr Roberts having expressed concern as to views being obstructed and the issue being reported to the Area Manager, Place Operations.

(c) Mrs Y Kirk. The concerns raised by Mrs Y Kirk as to the lack of the lack of a bus service on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays were being included by the Clerk in the proposed meeting with residents of Summerfield House.

(e) Community transport scheme. Arising from the above and general public transport concerns the Clerk informed he was obtaining further details of this scheme operated by Cheshire Community Action. These would be included in the newsletter and provided to Summerfield House. **Action: The Clerk.**

(f) Concession fares. It was suggested by Cllr Hughes and agreed that information should be sought by the Clerk for inclusion within the newsletter as to the application of concession fares to the C26 service. **Action: The Clerk.**

8 Highways

(a) Strategic issues. None.

(b) Issues with the highway authority, ownership by Traffic Group. A meeting of the Group was to take place to consider current issues.

(c) Current issues.

(i) Community speed management.

(a) SID. Cllr Moulton was supported by the Council in his view that further SID sessions should take place during 2016 irrespective of the installation of any speed activated devices.

(b) Community Speed Management guidance. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(c) Station Lane: Further to Cllr D Hughes referring to the speed of traffic on Station Lane and to the expectation the Police would support action on that road and on School Lane, Cllr Hughes was to discuss this with PC Boulton. **Action: Cllr Hughes.**

With respect to speed activated signs, Members remained aware the former Area Manager, Place Operations had undertaken to arrange for a speed / traffic count to be carried out on Station Lane as soon as practicable and would base his decision for funding on the results. If both elements showed an existing problem the highway authority would match fund the cost of provision, however if only one or neither factor existed then the Parish Council would be required to fund the whole cost. The position had been discussed by the Clerk at his recent meeting with the Principal Engineer and it had been agreed the issue would remain live although priority would be given to the provision of speed activated signs within the village. **Action: Noted.**

(d) Speed activated sign, Guilden Sutton Village (2127074). The position had been raised by the Clerk at his meeting with the Principal Engineer as minuted above. The urgency for progress had been emphasised. **Action: Noted.**

PC Boulton was kindly assisting in determining if the Police would be prepared to provide support which may enable an application to the Police and Crime Commissioner. This would enable a second location to be equipped given the availability of the funding which had now been released.

Members expressed considerable concern at the inordinate length of time which was being taken to secure a sign at the approach to the village. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Principal Engineer that in the absence of movement Members would visit the Highways Office to secure progress. **Action: The Clerk.**

(e) Speed awareness campaign. Cllr Roberts having raised the prospect of a speed awareness campaign supported by the highway authority and the Ward Members this would be progressed by the Traffic Group. **Action: Traffic Group.** Consideration would also be given to the creation of a Community Speed Watch Area. In relation to this and other related concerns the Clerk was approaching Mr D Reeves, Engineer, Place Operations, Cheshire West and Chester Council, as to a possible meeting with the Traffic Group. **Action: The Clerk.**

(f) School Lane. Concerns per Mr P Crompton, Belle Vue Lane. Further to the correspondence to Cllr S Parker from Mr P Crompton as to the speed of traffic on School Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane which referred to Mr Crompton having witnessed two accidents, a comment was made the Council had not been made aware of these collisions.

(ii) School parking. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the Rural Localities Officer indicating she was aware of actions which could be taken. Further to Cllr Hughes referring to the fact it had been agreed the PCSO would patrol to advise parents in view of near misses which had occurred, PC Boulton had been requested to arrange a patrol between 0845 and 0930 on a Wednesday. **Action: Noted.**

(iii) Planter. Green space, junction of Hare Lane and Green Lane South. This was being progressed by the Clerk following the site meeting which had taken place on Monday 20 July 2015 attended by himself and Mr Karl Siteine, Streetscene which had agreed the position on the green of the proposed planter and supply arrangements.

(iv) Traffic group. There was nothing further to report at this stage other than that minuted above.

(v) Guilden Sutton Lane: footway drainage. In addition to renewed obstruction of the footway by flooding from the adjacent field which had been reported to the highway authority by the Clerk, reference 4767529, the issue had again been raised by the Clerk with the Principal Engineer. **Action: Noted.**

(vi) Parking, Guilden Sutton Lane. There was nothing further to report at this stage **Action: Noted.**

(vii) Boundary fencing. Further to a Member referring to the condition of a length of boundary fencing adjoining a footway in the parish and to this being raised with the landowner there was nothing further to report at this stage. **Action: Noted.**

(viii) Guilden Sutton Lane, sight lines. Sight line issues at the junction of Heath Bank and Guilden Sutton Lane caused by parking and in the vicinity of the incoming bus stand caused by overgrowth were understood to be being monitored by the Area Manager, Place Operations. Overgrowth at the junction of the diversion and the CDS had also been referred.

(ix) Village access for mobility scooters. This issue was revisited by Cllr Ringstead. It was agreed advice should be sought from Mr D Reeves as to whom should be approached at the borough council. **Action: The Clerk.**

(x) A 41 Speed limit. Further to the Clerk inquiring of the Area Manager, Place Operations as to the short length of 60mph which remained on Guilden Sutton Lane following the introduction of the 50mph restriction on the A41, this was to be considered under the assessment of Hare Lane as minuted beneath.

(xi) Disabled parking bay, Summerfield Road. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to the surgery request for the provision of a disabled parking bay in front of the Summerfield Road shops which had been referred to the highway authority and had been logged on as 2127075 and passed to the relevant Engineer.

(xii) Sight line, Cople's corner. There was nothing further to report at this stage **Action: Noted.**

(xiii) Footway, School Lane. Further to Cllr Paterson referring to the unevenness of the footway between Arrowcroft Road and Oaklands (opposite Wood Farm), there was nothing further to report at this stage. The matter had been raised with the highway authority (2127961) and passed to an inspector for action. Further to Cllr Brown referring to uneven pavements elsewhere and the concerns of Mrs Y Kirk as to the condition of the surface of the footway on Porters Hill, a walkabout would be sought with the highway authority. **Action: The Clerk**

(xiv) School access footway, rear Orchard Croft. The outcome remained disappointing in that despite extremely effective sweeping following an inspection, about which this Council had no complaint and a great deal of work at the rear of the village hall, there was no firm commitment to schedule the cutting back of overgrowth or to rectify the surface faults on the section to the rear of Orchard Croft. This had been pressed by the Clerk but no response had been received. **Action: Noted.**

(xv) Assessment, 60mph limit Hare Lane/Belle Vue Lane. Further to the indication by the highway authority that it was hoped to carry out the assessment by the end of October and discuss the outcome with the Parish Council and how the Council wished to proceed, the Principal Engineer had advised the draft assessment had now been received. The Principal Engineer and the Police would feed back any comments to Mr D Reeves who would then produce a final assessment. At that point the Principal Engineer would be able to forward the assessment to share with the Council. The remaining derestricted section of Guilden Sutton Lane would also be included. **Action: Noted.**

(xvi) Speed limit, Wicker Lane. Further to Mr D Walters, Wicker House making an approach to Cllr S Parker re the existing 60mph limit on Wicker Lane there was nothing further to report at this stage to that minuted above.

(xvii) Water, Porters Hill. There was nothing further to report at this stage, an inspection having been observed. **Action: Noted.**

(xviii) Gutter weeds. There was nothing further to report at this stage, Cllr Ringstead having expressed concern at the state of gutters in the parish. The issue had been raised by the Clerk at his meeting with the Principal Engineer. **Action: Noted.**

(xix) A41/A51 junction. Further to Cllr Fisher referring to the possibility of a yellow box junction being implemented in view of the frequent congestion this had been discussed by the Clerk at his meeting with the Principal Engineer. The comment had been noted. **Action: Noted.**

(xx) Scottish Power cable lay, Hare Lane. Information as to the current closure of Hare Lane would be sought together with a possible site meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**

(xxi) 30 mph repeater Station Lane. The Clerk confirmed the damaged repeater sign had been reported. **Action: Noted.**

(xxii) Proposed 20mph areas. Cllr Roberts and the Clerk referred to the proposal by the borough council to introduce 20mph zones in all residential areas subject to assessments. A report to the January Cabinet had been forwarded separately for Members' information.

(d) Lighting.

(i) Faults. Members were asked to continue to report faults to the Clerk for reporting with details.

9 Finance:

(a) Income

Income

Co-operative Bank

Bank interest

5 November 2015

£ 1.75

(b) Payments

Northwich Town Council

Inspection

Invoice 1613

£ 88.20 (inc £14.70 VAT) (Under query)

Devaprint

Newsletter 165

Invoice 8663

£ 35.00

NWN Media Ltd

Newsletter distribution

Invoice 048861

£ 23.34 (inc £3.89 VAT)

Post Office Ltd

(HMRC) BR tax

£ 289.40

D M Fisher

Spring bulbs

£ 8.00

Clerk

Salary

Oct - Dec 2015

(including 13 hours lengthsman)

£ 1158.16 (net)

Expenses.

Volunteer of the Year voucher

£ 15.00

Postage

£ 2.34

Mileage

44 @ 45p

£ 19.80 (includes NWN Mold)

Copies

520 @ 5p

£ 26.00

£ 63.14

Proposed by Cllr Hughes

Seconded by Cllr Ringstead

and agreed.

(c) Balances

Co-operative Bank

Current a/c

30 October 2015

£30225.35

1 December 2015

£29807.82

15/16 135

Scottish Widows no1
1 October 2015 £19539.39

Scottish Widows no2
1 October 2015 £ 4005.52

(d) Finance: general. (i) Balances. Further to Cllr D Hughes revisiting the negligible rate of interest attracted by the balances, this continued to be monitored.

(e) Report on contingency payments.

Budget: £ 983.00
Payments: £ 0.00

(f) Audit issues. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(g) HMRC: (a) Real Time PAYE Returns. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(h) Clerk's gratuity. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(i) Insurance issues. Renewal. The Clerk had circulated the renewal documents to Audit and Governance Group. **Action: Audit and Governance Group.**

(j) Budget 2016/17. Members may noted that due to the calendar the Council would now be able to deal with this at the February meeting enabling the Audit and Governance Group to consider the documents during January. The due date was 5 February 2015. **Action: Noted.**

Cllr Fisher referred to aspects of a letter received from the borough council with reference to decisions on the precept which he felt contained incorrect wording. This would be considered by the Clerk. Cllr Fisher further sought information on the methodology surrounding the calculation of the number of Band D equivalent properties within the parish which would be requested by the Clerk. **Action: The Clerk.**

10 Environment Services.

(a) Waste collection and recycling issues. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Environmental issues.

(i) Areas of concern. The condition of the steps from Fox Cover to Church Lane, raised by Cllr Hughes, was being monitored together with that of the steps opposite from Cinder Lane to Church Lane. Overgrowth affecting that part of Wicker Lane in the vicinity of the former vicarage where there was no footway and concerns as to the steps from Heath Bank to Guilden Sutton Lane were with the borough council. Further to the correspondence from Mr Tony Fisher, Killearn House, Church Lane as to the verge at the junction of Wicker Lane and School Lane, which had been referred to the supervisor, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

A 51 footway adjoining the Rugby Club. It was noted the complainant had now advised Cllr Hall the overgrowth had been cut back but had asked if there was chance of further work being carried out to widen/clear the footpath to its proper width in the near future.

(ii) Lengthsman. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(iii) Regular inspections. The suggestion raised by Cllr Moulton as to regular inspections throughout the parish with an increase in the lengthsman's hours would be revisited in due course.

(iv) Dog fouling: Requests remained outstanding for additional bins on School Lane and Garners Lane together with that from Cllr Ringstead for a bin on Station Lane to assist users of the greenway. The Clerk confirmed he was progressing the provision of a bin on Station Lane. **Action: The Clerk.**

Further to Cllr Paterson referring to a recent borough council initiative enabling fouling to be marked with pink paint, a supply of which had been requested under 101002823537, the issue had been pursued but no response had been received. This continued to be the position. **Action: The Clerk.**

The concerns raised by Mrs G Jones via the Public Rights of Way Warden as to dog fouling which had been circulated remained under consideration.

(v) Noise. The Clerk reported the receipt of an inquiry as to whether clay pigeon shooting on land within the parish had been advised to the Council within the last two years. It was not thought this was the case.

11 Trees and hedges.

(a) Hedges. The increasing obstruction of the footway on Guilden Sutton Lane and at other locations in the village by overgrown hedges during the growing season continued to be noted. Cllr Brown would make further inquiries as to a standard proforma to advise individual occupiers as appropriate known to be in use elsewhere. **Action: Cllr Brown.** This would be issued by the Clerk to avoid duplication. As a last resort, the highway authority would be requested to take action.

The suggestion raised by Cllr Moulton as to regular inspections throughout the parish with an increase in the lengthsman's hours would be revisited in due course.

The new issue raised by Mrs G Jones via the Public Rights of Way Warden which had been circulated remained under consideration.

(b) Dingle path. Further to Cllr Hughes reporting a request from an adjoining occupier to fell two self set sycamores on private land adjoining this path which were stopping his enjoyment of oak trees in the group there was nothing further to report at this stage. Cllr Paterson's concerns as to the state of other trees adjacent to the path remained.

(c) Conifers adjoining parish playing field. Further to Cllr Fisher referring to the continuing growth of conifers in a property adjoining the parish playing field which he believed were now extending onto the field, action was to be taken by the Clerk as minuted above.

(d) Growth, Wicker Lane/Church Lane junction. Growth at this junction continued to be monitored. (minute 10 (b) refers).

(e) Overgrowth, Heath Bank. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(f) Visibility, junction Guilden Sutton Lane/Guilden Sutton Lane CDS. Further to Cllr Davis referring to the ongoing concern as to visibility for emerging vehicles being obstructed, this issue was with Area Manager, Place Operations.

(g) Overgrowth Guilden Sutton Lane/Heath Bank. **Cllr Roberts.** There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(h) Trees, dingle path, Further to a constituent in Guilden Green raising concerns with Cllr M Parker, it was now understood action had been taken by occupiers. **Action: Noted.**

(i) Replacement trees, Scottish Power. The suggestion by Cllr Hughes re 2 no cherry, 2 no flowering crab trees and 1 no almond tree being planted in the bank to the rear of the parish car park had been actioned by the Clerk.

Members who had raised particular issues listed above kindly indicated those which might be removed from the agenda.

(j) Trees, general. Further to Cllr Hughes informing he was frequently approached by residents concerned at the threatening nature of large trees on both public and private land within the parish, the Tree Officer had been invited to visit and had indicated he would be willing to do so to inspect trees on public land. This would be pursued. **Action: The Clerk.**

(k) Mrs Y Kirk. The concerns raised by Mrs Y Kirk as to trees said to be overgrowing the footway on the Guilden Sutton Lane diversion and their vigorous growth on the opposite side of the road were being pursued by the Clerk who believed they might fall to Highways England. **Action: The Clerk.**

(l) Hedge rear Village Hall. It was agreed that Streetscene should be requested to cut this hedge. **Action: The Clerk.**

(m) Cheshire Wildlife Trust. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

12 Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

(a) Chester Area Meeting. (a) Audit and Finance Update. This stood referred to the Audit and Governance Group. (b) Changes to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme for Local Councils. This had been circulated to the Audit and Governance Group. (c) Appointment of Parish Standards Representatives. As minuted above.

13 Cheshire West and Chester Council.

(a) Community governance reviews.

(i) Guilden Sutton. The County Office had advised a large scale map of the revised parish was available for collection. **Action: The Clerk.**

(ii) Great Boughton. Further to Cllr Fisher suggesting information should be sought as to the precept levels in Guilden Sutton and Great Boughton this had been researched by the Clerk together with the disparity in precepts across the borough which Cllr Fisher had also raised. The Clerk would contact Cllr Fisher. **Action: The Clerk.**

(b) Members budgets applications. (Speed activated indicators, Defibrillator.) There was nothing further to report at this stage arising from the Clerk meeting Sarah Dobbins, Rural Localities Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council, to discuss progress with Member Budget grant funded schemes and other issues.

(c) Chester Villages Community Forum. There was nothing further to report. The inaudibility of proceedings would again be raised at an appropriate stage.

(d) Community resilience. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(e) Public Space Protection Order in Chester. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(f) Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Public Consultation. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

(g) Help shape the future of your neighbourhood consultation. Details of this consultation had been circulated by the Clerk. The Clerk advised the closing date was imminent.

(h) New Homes Bonus. Further to the advice received from David Sconce Esq, Finance Officer, Budget Planning, Financial Reporting & Capital as to the future of the fund and from Cllr S Parker who had advised the new administration was looking to remove the New Homes Bonus allocations to town and parish councils as part of their £47m savings requirement, a draft response had been circulated by the Clerk. This was agreed as beneath.

The Council does not disagree with the principle that scarce resources must be devoted to the areas of greatest need but objects to the proposed withholding of New Homes Bonus as it believes this would have a disproportionate effect on the already disadvantaged rural area.

The Borough Council itself reports that 40% of its population live in the rural area and the rural areas of Cheshire West & Chester suffer from many of the same issues as other rural areas across England, including poor access to services, limited public transport, an ageing population and a critical lack of affordable housing. It goes on to say that rural communities face some serious threats to their long term sustainability including population imbalance, a shortage of the right sort of housing, unaffordable housing, withdrawal of services, limited economic opportunity, the economic infrastructure and the increasing cost of fuel and energy

Across the country there has long been evidence that the ever widening differences in the level of services between town and country threatens the long term viability of many rural communities. Deprivation may be more readily discerned in a compact urban ward but in the rural areas it can go undetected and unacknowledged. New Homes Bonus payments have more recently played an important part in helping to redress the balance

A deprived urban ward is likely nonetheless to have reasonable access to a children's centre, a community centre, a high school, health services and public transport but this is often not the case in a deprived rural area. Occupiers, often elderly, experience a higher incidence of fuel poverty and face higher transport and housing costs.

Figures suggest that funding for local authorities from central government is £131 lower per head in rural areas compared with urban areas. This highlights the immense value to Town and Parish councils of the current arrangement which can go some way to ensuring the vitality of rural communities.

In summary, Members are concerned that need in urban areas which may be more visible might be seen as a greater priority when there can be similar but unseen deprivation and isolation in the rural area which New Homes Bonus can play an invaluable role in addressing by supporting community cohesion.

It was agreed this should be included in a future issue of the newsletter.

Members referred to the effect of the possible cumulative loss of New Homes Bonus, Council Tax Reduction Grant, any reduction to ward members' budgets and any payments arising from unconventional energy extraction, the latter intended to be made directly to affected communities.

(i) Statement of Policy for Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators Consultation. It was noted a response was due by 21 February 2016.

(j) UKYP Elections 2016 - opportunity for young people. It was noted candidates would be chosen on 30 January 2016.

14 Cheshire Community Action.

There were no action items to report.

15 CPRE. Countryside Voice reader survey. This survey had been referred to Cllr Brown.

16 Health. Public access defibrillator. North West Ambulance service funding. A report on the current position indicating the options had been circulated by the Clerk. Members were now anxious to proceed as quickly as possible and agreed option 2 in principle (Supply only with seven years' consumables). The Chairman and Vice Chairman were authorised to agree any actions. It was further agreed that community engagement should be sought as a second phase given the equipment was designed to be automatic.

Action: The Clerk.

17 Policing/Fire Service.

(i) Policing:

(a) Police & Crime Commissioner, Cheshire Police precept consultation. This consultation seeking views on the Cheshire police precept for 2016/17 had been circulated separately to all Members.

(b) Crime. There were no action items to report.

(c) Homewatch. There were no action items to report.

(d) Crime fund. The possibility of the proposed second 'flashing 30' being partly financed by funds held by the Commissioner would be pursued in the event of evidence which met the guidelines becoming available.

Action: The Clerk.

(e) Have Your Say Survey. Members were reminded this survey, which remained open, was intended to inform the Commissioner's decisions on policing and budgeting.

(ii) Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Cheshire Fire Authority: Consultation on draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016/17. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

18 Newsletter. The Clerk informed Newsletter 165 had appeared on Thursday 17 December 2015. **Action: Noted.**

19 War Memorial. There was nothing further to report at this stage as to a possible modest poppy installation.

20 Bulb planting. Cllrs Fisher and Ringstead reported further.

21 Parish IT.

(i) Google Groups (Parish Plan and Bird in Hand). There were no action items to report further to that minuted above.

(ii) Ownership of site. Further to Members revisiting the ownership of the site, further consideration would be given to the need, if necessary to revise the terms of the current disclaimer.

(iii) Business section. There was nothing further to report at this stage.

22 Primary School. Cllr Hughes reported further.

23 Land ownerships. Further consideration would be given to the suggestion by Cllr Paterson that it would be beneficial for the Council to compile a register of land ownerships which adjoined footways and public footpaths.

24 Community events.

(i) Christmas tree project. Members commented further on this event. (ii) Film group. Cllr Paterson reported a further showing would take place on 30 January 2016. (iii) St John's 200th anniversary. The Chairman reported the Rector had warmly welcomed the Council's decision to finance the proposed timeline history of the church amounting to £170. (iv) Christmas lights competition. Cllr Paterson reported. Cul de sacs had put on a fine show but the prize had been won by 66 Guilden Sutton Lane. (v) HM The Queen 90th Birthday Celebrations. Cllr Moulton informed a community meeting was to take place in Moorcroft Crescent to consider the matter. The Chairman advised of publicity for a national clean up day.

25 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, documentation received was under review. **Action: The Clerk.**

26 Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Hughes reported further including a request for the Pre School to have wifi to comply with Ofsted requirements.

27 Electricity sub stations: Oaklands estate. There was nothing further to report as to the condition of some electricity sub stations on the estate which had been brought to the attention of Scottish Power.

28 Members' information items.

Recycling of Christmas trees. Cllr Ringstead advised of a service provided at the rugby club in aid of a hospice. Details would be provided to the web site. **Action: The Clerk.**

29 Information correspondence. Members noted information items contained within the agenda and the late information report.

Matters considered in the absence of the press and public.

30 Highways issue. Further to a Member revisiting a highways issue which the previous Network Steward had understood would be resolved but on which no action had been taken and to the Clerk advising the issue has been re referred to the highway authority, there was nothing further to report at this stage. Further action would be taken by the Clerk.

31 Permitted development. Members revisited the withdrawal of permitted development rights on the Oaklands estate and referred to possible instances where occupiers may not have been aware an application was required. It was agreed the Council should continue to seek advice from the local planning authority where concerns arose to protect the character and appearance of the estate. A note would appear in the newsletter to raise awareness.

The meeting concluded at 2130

Date of next meeting: Monday 1 February 2016.

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