

Guilden Sutton Parish Council**Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm**

Chairman: Cllr S Ringstead

Present: Cllrs Brown, Davis, Moulton, Paterson and Roberts.

Clerk: Mrs K Lowe

In attendance: Cllr S Parker, PC Boulton and 3 members of the public.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- a. Apologies from Cllr Hughes (holiday) were received and accepted.
- b. There were no new declarations of interest and no dispensations sought.
- c. It was proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Paterson to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. RESOLVED unanimously to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting.
- d. Dates of future meetings. The Clerk has previously circulated a list of proposed meeting dates for 2018 as follows:

Wednesday 4th April, Wednesday 2nd May, Wednesday 6th June, Wednesday 11th July

- e. The two candidates who had initially expressed an interest in the vacancy on the Parish Council have both withdrawn their interest at this time. The vacancy will be readvertised on the website.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Visiting Officers – PC Boulton was in attendance and updated the meeting on the work the police have been doing on speeding in the village, a number of tickets have been issued. A member asked PC Boulton if he had any more information about the closure of Mickle Trafford Police, PC Boulton reassured the meeting that the police would still be in the area and the details of police surgeries would be confirmed in the future. A member asked about the new PCSO for the area and PC Boulton confirmed he had spent time introducing her to the area and that she would introduce herself to the Parish Council in due course dependent on shift patterns.
- b. Visiting Members – Cllr S Parker gave a brief update from CWaC explaining the main focus for the time of year was budgets. Cllr Parker believes that the council tax increase will be 4.99% with additional charges for the police and fire services. Cllr Parker also spoke about the conclusions of the Boundary Commission Review. The conclusions will be implemented from May 2019 and Guilden Sutton will form part of a new ward known as Gowry Rural. A member asked Cllr Parker about the departure of PCSO Netherton recently, Cllr Parker agreed that it was disappointing to lose the experience the officer had of the area but it was a matter for police staffing. Members also raised the difficulties the Parish Council have been having with members of the public being re-directed to them by officers of CWaC council for funding of projects that would not normally come under the remit of the Parish

Council. GSPC are considering sending a letter to the leader of the council and if this is agreed by members Cllr Parker will be copied in on the correspondence.

- c. Members of the public speaking time – A member of the public informed the council that rubbish had been dumped at the end of Guilden Sutton Lane. ACTION – Clerk to contact Streetscene. A member of the public asked the Parish Council to consider if there was a reason there had not been a better response to the vacancy notice. There were two initial expressions of interest and the vacancy will now be re-advertised.
- d. Correspondence – The Clerk has been contacted by members of the public on a number of topics.
 1. Quad Bikes at Ardens Farm – Clerk to contact Mr Arden
 2. Concerns about landowners/countryfolk carrying guns – This was referred to PC Boulton for assistance.
 3. Planning applications in the Wicker Lane area – The Clerk responded
 4. Flooding under the bridge on Guilden Sutton Lane – The Clerk has responded to these concerns and the Parish Council is in regular contact with the Highways Department about the problem.
 5. Surface of the playing field affected by a horse – Cllr Davis to follow up
- e. Website – There was nothing new to report.
- f. Newsletter – A member raised the possibility of publishing Parish Council notices in Vicars Cross Voice which also covers Guilden Sutton. ACTION – Clerk to investigate costs involved.
- g. Report from Local Surgery

The Local Surgery took place with Cllr Davis and Cllr Paterson and the following matters were raised:

- Bus services

The next surgery will take place on Saturday 31st March 2018. Cllr Davis and Ringstead will attend. This is Easter Weekend, Cllr Moulton said he would be available if either member needed to swap they should let him know by telephone.

3. PLANNING

a. New/recent applications

18/00438/FUL Heather Cottage, Wicker Lane, Guilden Sutton. There were no objections to this application.

18/00592/FUL Tile Farm, Wicker Lane, Guilden Sutton.

This application had been visited by Cllr Davis and Cllr Paterson. The proposal is to build a new barn to support the change in farming potatoes to cereal crops. The location of the proposed barn would cause an extension of the existing curtilage onto land which is farmland within the greenbelt. Local neighbours were unhappy at the proposed development when they discussed this with Cllr Davis and Paterson. The new barn would be situated 4-5 metres away from a well used public footpath, the views from this footpath would be significantly reduced. In addition to this the height of the proposed barn would impact on the view from the village towards Barrow, this is a view which the

emergent Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and safeguard and has been mentioned in surveys of residents. It would also impact on the view from Cinder Lane reducing the open aspect.

Despite the concerns around this planning application the Parish Council are very aware of the pressures farmers and agricultural businesses are facing in the current climate and the need to diversify, they do not object to an additional barn in principle rather the location of the planning application. The Parish Council consider the barn could be situated in a much less impactful location on the farm site.

There were a mix of views as to whether the planning application should be supported on the basis of support for farmers or objected to in support for the views gathered from the NDP. A vote was held:

2 members voted to support the application

2 members voted to object to the application

2 members abstained.

The Chairman was asked to place the casting vote.

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to the planning application for the reasons above. The Clerk will submit comments to the planning department.

b. New Planning Decisions

18/00184/FUL 26 School Lane, Guilden Sutton - Approval

c. Section 106 monies

Cllr Hughes was not at the meeting to give an update on any progress made.

d. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Paterson and Ringstead had met with Rosie Morgan from CWaC to receive further information about the Neighbourhood Planning process.

4. TRAINING.

There was no new information to report.

5. PARISH CAR PARK

The Clerk and Cllr Ringstead are following up the sandstone repairs please see minute item 10D.

6. LEISURE SERVICES

It was RESOLVED unanimously to accept the Northwich Town Council Grounds Maintenance contract. The Clerk will specify that when the Playing Field hedge is cut it is only the roadside edge that is to be done.

The Clerk will also follow up on the playground jet washing for this year which should have been completed but may have been delayed due to weather conditions.

a. Grass cutting

There was no new information to report.

b. Playing Field

There was no new information to report.

c. Footpaths / Footways

The path from the school down to the back of Orchard Croft needs sweeping.

d. Mobile Library – The mobile library is next in the village on 19th March. All members and residents are encouraged to borrow a book.

7. PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

There was no new information to report at this meeting.

8. HIGHWAYS

- a. SID Group – Cllr Moulton will start to look at dates for the spring. It was suggested that the group starts after the Easter holidays from 16th April onwards. The SID group need more volunteers if they are going to be able to deploy the speed gun on a regular basis. There will be a pilot scheme with the new equipment and 3 members of the group to give it a try and work out the practicalities. Ian Rutherford from CWaC will try to attend the first session to advise subject to confirmation of dates.
- b. Standing Consideration of Highways matters – There were no new matters to discuss.

9. FINANCE

- a. Income – none received. The Clerk had received notification from ChALC that a grant application for Transparency Code Funding had been approved and the Parish Council had been awarded £655 for the purchase of a laptop, software and a scanner/printer. The Clerk will confirm receipt of funding hopefully at the next meeting.
- b. Payments

The following payments were approved:

Clerk Pay March £329.80

Clerk expenses £33.43

- c. The payment schedule was accepted. The latest current account bank statements were checked and signed.

It was proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Paterson to accept the financial information and approve the payments put forward. RESOLVED unanimously.

The appointment of an internal auditor was discussed, Members would like to ask Mr Tubman if he would complete an internal audit of the accounts. ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Tubman.

10. ENVIRONMENT

- a. Streetscene – Members would like to compile a list of outstanding issues in the village, a village walk was proposed to look at issues outstanding the Clerk will then pull together a list which can be sent to Streetscene.
- b. Dog fouling – There is a public consultation on dog protection orders which will be added to the website, members are encouraged to read the consultation particularly the section on proposals for Parish Councils.
- c. Trees and hedges, planters and bulbs – A Willow Tree has been trimmed by CWaC officers but all the cuttings have been left on the floor at The Dell, this will be reported to streetscene
- d. Repairs are needed to the sandstone wall in the Parish Car Park and the sandstone pillars at the memorial garden. Cllr Ringstead is meeting with a builder tomorrow but it has been difficult to find one willing to quote for the work. The Clerk has contacted the insurance company who have requested further details. The £250 excess for the policy would apply for the repair in each location, a total of £500 should the Parish Council make a claim.

11. CWAC and other organisations

- a. CWAC correspondence – The public consultation on dog protection orders is ongoing please see minute 10B. The proposal of a draft letter from Cllr Roberts was discussed detailing where residents have been re-directed to the Parish Council by CWaC officers in circumstances which were not appropriate. The content of the letters was discussed the Clerk will update the letter and send to members of the Parish Council, it will then be sent to Cllr Dixon, Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council and copied to Cllr S Parker.
- b. ChALC/NALC – The Clerk is waiting for updated guidance on GDPR to bring to the attention of members.
- c. CPRE – No new information to report.
- d. Defibrillator – The Clerk will contact Mr Norbury to confirm whether the visual check is made each week and if he can send a completed form to the NW ambulance service each month.
- e. Police and Fire – Members noted a disappointing response to a village petition regarding the departure of PCSO Netherton.
Members suggested an Operation Shield meeting could be held at the same time as an NDP consultation in the future.

12. GDPR

The new GDPR legislation comes into force 25th May 2018. The Clerk is waiting for updated guidance from ChALC/NALC. As a first step the Clerk recommends the purchase of a laptop using the transparency code grant funding. Implications for the website also need to be considered. This item will be on the next agenda.

13. GUILDEN SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school have recently marked Fair trade fortnight and World Book Day, the school choir sang at the seniors lunch which was very well received. The school have purchased some new outdoor storage in preparation for the development of the new outdoor area. The school Book Fair is coming up and they will also be holding an Easter Coffee morning.

14. COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Village Quiz took place 3rd March 2018.

The Pensioners Lunch has also recently taken place.

Cllrs Moulton, Paterson and Ringstead attended a leaving lunch recently for the Rev Mark Hart.

The Open Gardens event will take place 10th June

The Village Fete will take place 14th July

There will be an event for the lighting of a beacon in November.

Talks are going on to consider whether the community cinema events can be re-started.

15. VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There was no new information to report.

16. MEMBERS INFORMATION AND SPEAKING TIME

Cllr Paterson raised work being undertaken at a property on Wood Croft reducing the size of the windows and pointed out there are no permitted development rights on the Oaklands estate. Cllr Paterson also asked about the Bird in Hand changes. The Clerk will ask planning about both properties.

The Clerk notified members that she had been contacted by reading charity Beanstalk looking for new reading volunteers, the information will be forwarded to Mr Lewin for the website.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 4th April 2018 starting at 7.30pm