

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilden Sutton Parish Council held on 6th November 2024, at 7:30PM at Guilden Sutton Village Hall

Chairman: Cllr S Ringstead

Present: Cllr A Davis, Cllr D Hughes, Cllr M Littlewood, Cllr P Paterson, Cllr V Roberts

Assistant Clerk: Ms R Ringstead

In attendance: Mr B Lewin and one member of the public.

1. Procedural Matters

(a) To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Whelan

(b) To consider the Code of Conduct and Members' interests

Cllrs Hughes and Littlewood as members of Guilden Sutton Green Space.

Cllr Hughes and Whelan as a member of Guilden Sutton Community Association.

Cllr Ringstead as a member of her household is a member of Men in Sheds.

Cllr Paterson, Cllr Littlewood and Cllr Ringstead as members of the Wildflower Garden project group.

Cllr Hughes as a governor of Guilden Sutton Primary School

Cllr Whelan as a Director of the Guilden Sutton GreenSpace Group

(c) Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 2nd October 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 2nd October 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

(e) Dates of future meetings.

4th December

15th January

5th February

5th March

2nd April

7th May

4th June

16th July

3rd September

1st October

5th November

3rd December

2. Community Engagement/Communications

(a) Visiting members' speaking time

None

(b) Visiting officers' speaking time

Mr Lewin reported footpaths towards the rugby club have experienced flooding which can be dangerous and CWAC should be contacted.

(c) Public Speaking Time.

Mr Lewin asked for an update about the housing needs survey. Cllr Paterson confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan team will be drawing upon some of the findings once published.

(d) To receive a report concerning recent Public Correspondence.

Correspondence had been received regarding:

- Timeline of extended roadworks
- Positive feedback on the clearance of the dingle path
- Accessibility of pavements along Station Lane and Guilden Sutton Lane – request for extension of dropped curbs and notices at car park near Village Hall and shops
- Accessible toilet facilities at the local pub
- Overgrown hedges obstructing the pavement

(e) To receive a report from Councillors presiding at the recent Surgery

Cllrs Davis and Roberts had presided. A resident had raised some concerns with regards to congestion and local roads being used as a cut-through, tree safety and a local planning enforcement matter.

It was agreed that Cllrs Ringstead and Davies would preside at the next surgery due to be held on 30th November 2024

(f) To receive a report from the Communications sub-committee

Cllr Littlewood shared an update on the website and social media groups, and confirmed a newsletter is planned for the new year.

(g) To receive a report from the Support Group

Cllr Littlewood thanked the support group and Cllr Davies for efforts during the recent flooding and confirmed the supply of sandbags in the village had been useful.

Cllr Littlewood updated that there had been discussion about speeding cars on Wicker Lane, traffic issues and suspicious activity. Cllr Littlewood will ensure that this information is shared with local Police Constable (PC) and Police Community Support Office (PCSO).

(h) To consider matters regarding sustainability

Nothing further

(i) CWAC Connections event

It was agreed that two Councillors will attend a CWAC Connections event on 14 November.

(j) Police Crime Commissioner Event

Cllr Hughes updated on his recent attendance at this event.

3. Open Spaces

(a) Guilden Sutton GreenSpace

Cllr Hughes updated on the previous meeting and news that Guilden Sutton GreenSpace Group will join forces with a sustainability group.

Cllr Ringstead noted that a plot of land in the village is now for sale but it was agreed that this would not be large enough for the Parish Council to consider.

(b) Wildflower Garden

Cllr Paterson updated that the SpaceHive funds have been released and that the Wildflower group has ordered a new noticeboard, with a bench and planters to be ordered in the spring. There are plans for children's groups to be involved in spring planting.

Cllr Paterson reported that a meeting with the grounds maintenance team and wildflower group will be co-ordinated to discuss the transfer of the maintenance responsibilities away from CWAC.

(c) Old School Field

It was noted that no further sightings of moles have been recorded but the Clerk will check in on progress.

(d) Dog fouling

Nothing further

(f) Grit Box

Cllr Ringstead said that following damage to the Grit Box, a conversation was had with Men in Sheds regarding a wooden replacement, but wood is not a suitable replacement for storing grit. Cllr Paterson will explore repair options, but it was agreed that the sandbags stored in the same container need to be protected from the elements.

(f) Hilltop Road Wildflowers

It was noted that action has been taken to reduce weeds in this area using a sustainable method.

4. Transport and Highways

(a) To receive an update on Public Transport issues and recent survey

Cllr Ringstead updated that a letter was sent to the bus transport company to see if a Sunday bus service would be considered, but no update has been sent. It was also noted that bus fares will increase after the decision taken at a national level in the recent budget.

Cllr Littlewood suggested that a representative from the CWAC highways should be invited to the January Open Forum.

(b) To receive an update from Councillors involved in the footpath working group.

Cllr Ringstead reported that there had been no further contact from the relevant landowner and a final request for collaboration has been issued.

(c) To receive an update on Community SpeedWatch

Cllr Littlewood and Cllr Hughes indicated plans to undertake a further SpeedWatch session before Christmas.

5. Planning

(a) New applications:

24/03078/FUL	The Lodge School Lane Guilden Sutton Chester CH3 7EU Erection of replacement dwelling (part retrospective)	SR/TP
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(b) Awaiting Decision:

23/00017/ENF	Tile Farm, Wicker Lane Without planning permission a material change of use of the Land from agricultural use to a mixed use of agriculture and MX Motorcross/Quad bike use and Clay Pigeon Shooting use [“the Unauthorised Development”].	OBJECTION
24/00935/FUL	Land Adjacent To Electricity Substation and A55 Belle Vue Lane Guilden Sutton Chester Construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) designed to provide grid network services to National Grid and local electricity Distribution Network Operator (DNO) SP Manweb	NO OBJECTION
24/01997/FUL	The Old School Guilden Sutton Lane Change of use of agricultural land to residential to extend garden curtilage	OBJECTION
APP/A0665/W/24/3347732	The Old School Guilden Sutton Lane Change of use of agricultural land to residential to extend garden curtilage.	OBJECTION
24/02614/OUT	18 Ash Bank Hare Lane Two storey dwelling	OBJECTION

(c) Decision Notices:

None

d) Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Paterson updated that a meeting on the neighbourhood plan will take place soon.

6. Trees and Hedges

It was agreed that Cllr Whelan should be able to share the Tree Report with CWAC for discussion.

7. Finance

a) To note recent items of income

Bank Interest (Co-Operative Deposit Account)	£543.76
HMRC VAT Return	£1,486.98

(b) To approve recent items of spending:

M Roberts (Phone Bill)	£16.30 (inc. £2.72 VAT)
M Roberts (Salary)	At agreed rate (no VAT)
R Ringstead (Salary)	At agreed rate (no VAT)
HMRC (Payroll)	£137.00 (no VAT)
M Roberts (Website)	£11.40 (inc. £1.90 VAT)
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Grounds Maintenance)	£312.00 (inc. £52.00 VAT)
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Lengthsman)	£234.00 (inc. £39.00 VAT)
M Roberts (Stamps)	£10.80 (no VAT)
Indigo Surveys Ltd (Tree Survey)	£750.00 (inc. £125.00 VAT)
Core Highways (Regions Ltd) TA Amberon TM	£216.00 (inc. £36.00 VAT)

(c) To approve updated account balances

Co-Operative Current Account	£73,697.20
Co-Operative Deposit Account	£10,543.76
Scottish Widows Business Fund 1	£19,852.16
Scottish Widows Business Fund 2	£4,319.15

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Littlewood and agreed that the above listed payments would be made and balances approved. The Clerk would process and Cllr Paterson and Cllr Hughes would authorise.

(d) Banking Arrangements

Cllr Ringstead noted that in reference to the balances above, £60,000 has been transferred to the Current Account as the initial cheque deposit for the new savings account has been sent.

It was previously agreed that Cllr Roberts will be added as a financial signatory.

(e) Strategic Plan

Cllr Ringstead noted that an update will soon be received about CWAC's strategic plan to encourage volunteers to take on highway maintenance tasks. The Clerk has asked the CWAC localities team to confirm whether parish councils will be able to engage professional contractors.

(f) Graveyard Grant

Cllr Ringstead reported on correspondence received from CWAC regarding the Church's Graveyard Grant and the application process, and that this will be shared with the Church.

8. Grounds Maintenance

(a) Hare Lane Village Green

It was noted that a bench will be donated by the Community Association.

9. Primary School

Cllr Hughes reported on latest updates from the Primary School and current financial challenges were noted.

10. Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Ringstead said that road closures are planned for Remembrance Sunday. Personal donations have been made by Councillors towards the Remembrance Wreath. Cllr Ringstead is due to do a reading and read the list of the fallen at the Remembrance service.

10. Members Information

Cllr Roberts asked if anyone on the council is first aid trained and it was agreed that it would be sensible to arrange some first aid training for a member of the council.

11. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed by Cllr Littlewood, seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed that members of the press and public would be excluded in order that the Council discuss urgent exempt items under the Local Government Act 1972.

12. Part Two

(a) Enforcement

Next steps on a local enforcement matter were discussed.

(b) Payscales

Updated salary payscales were reported on and confirmed.

Meeting closed at 21.15