

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilden Sutton Parish Council held on Wednesday, 15th January 2025 at 7:30PM at Guilden Sutton Village Hall

Chairman: Cllr S Ringstead (absent)

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

Clerk: Mr M Roberts

In attendance: Mr B Lewin and three members of the public.

Cllr Davis in the Chair

MOTION – David E Whitehouse – The Council was saddened to hear of the death of Ted Whitehouse, a former long serving Councillor and two-term Chairman of the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the Council would observe a minute's silence to remember Ted and his contribution to the Village.

1. Procedural Matters

(a) To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ringstead

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Heatley and Parker

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

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

Cllrs 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.

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

Cllr Hughes as a governor of Guilden Sutton Primary School.

(c) Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 4th December 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson seconded by Cllr Whelan and agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 4th December 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

(d) Dates of future meetings.

5th February

5th March

2nd April

7th May

4th June

16th July

3rd September

1st October

5th November

3rd December

(e) Vacancy in the office of Councillor

The Clerk reported that two expressions of interest had been received and the prospective candidates had been advised of next steps.

2. Community Engagement/Communications

(a) Visiting members' speaking time

None

(b) Visiting officers' speaking time

Mr Lewin noted that it had been necessary to dig ditches out in the Hook's Wood area.

(c) Public Speaking Time

A member of the public referred to the recent newsletter and the importance of communication.

A member of the public referred to a previous planning refusal and sought the Council's support in light of a prospective future application.

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

Correspondence had been received regarding a planning appeal and the potential of creating more accessible walking routes within the Parish.

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

Cllr Whelan reported that the surgery had been poorly attended due to the weather conditions.

Cllrs Davis and Littlewood would preside at the next surgery on 1st February.

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

Cllr Littlewood reported that a newsletter had been distributed before Christmas. It was noted that a survey had been conducted with regards to the use of noticeboards. It was noted that the February meeting would convert to a communications group meeting.

(g) To receive a report from the Support Group

Cllr Littlewood noted that the group had delivered the recent newsletters. The group had also been involved in supporting with flooding, and later with snow and grit.

(h) To consider matters regarding sustainability

Cllr Whelan asked that the sustainability policy be added to the website.

3. Open Spaces

(a) Guilden Sutton GreenSpace

Nothing further.

(b) Wildflower Garden

It was noted that the new noticeboard had been fitted.

(c) Old School Field

Nothing further.

(d) Dog fouling

Cllr Paterson reported an incident of dog fouling.

(e) Grit Box

Cllr Littlewood noted that the grit box needed to be cleared out of used bags. Cllr Davis had

canvassed opinion in relation to the public accessing the grit box. It was felt that a more traditional grit box could be installed near the Village Hall and at Fox Cover close to the steps.

(f) Hilltop Road Wildflowers

Cllr Whelan reported that the pallets would be removed in the middle of February.

4. Transport and Highways

(a) To receive an update on Public Transport issues and additional government funding

It was noted that the Upton High School bus had been over capacity.

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

Nothing further.

(c) To receive an update on Community Speedwatch

Cllr Littlewood reported that PCSO Debbie Netherton had returned to cover the Parish.

(d) To consider the offer of a ward walk with the Highways and StreetCare teams.

The Clerk requested Councillors send dates for a prospective.

(e) To review the Actions Log

Reference	Issue	Details	Status
HW671903322	Grid/Drain – Blocked School Lane	Reported December '24 TP	
	Street Light – War memorial	Reported January '25 ML	

5. Planning

(a) New applications:

24/03409/FUL	Cheshire West and Chester Council Chester Area Highways Office Guilden Sutton Lane	24 January 2025 AD/TP
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(b) Awaiting Decision:

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
24/03078/FUL	The Lodge School Lane Erection of replacement dwelling (part retrospective)	SR/TP

(c) Decision Notices

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”].	APPEAL UPHELD
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d) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Paterson reported a meeting had taken place on 14th January. A report had been carried out by Cheshire Wildlife Trust in respect of an Orchard.

Cllr Roberts reported having attended a meeting with regards to changes to the NPPF. An informal consultation is being held with regards to changes to planning committees. Mandatory housing targets have now been introduced which will increase pressure to develop 1914 houses per annum.

6. Trees and Hedges

Cllr Whelan has furnished the tree report to CWAC and further correspondence is awaited. Further advice was awaited with regards to the fallen tree at the War memorial. Cllr Hughes thanked those Councillors who had removed the debris from the area.

7. Finance

(a) To note recent items of income:

None

(b) To approve recent items of spending:

M Roberts (Salary)	At agreed rate *
R Ringstead (Salary)	At agreed rate *
HMRC (Payroll)	£195.80 (no VAT)*
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Grounds Maintenance)	£312.00 (inc. £52.00 VAT)*
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Lengthsman)	£234.00 (inc. £39.00 VAT)*
Botanica Landscapes Ltd (Noticeboard Installation)	£144.00 (inc. £24.00 VAT)*
M Roberts (Phone Bill)	£16.30 (inc. £2.72 VAT)
M Roberts (Website)	£11.40 (inc. £1.90 VAT)
MustardPrint (Newsletter)	£85.00 (no VAT)
M Littlewood (Christmas Cards)	£5.00 (inc. £0.83 VAT)
Playing Field Owner 1 (Playing Field Rent)	£80.00 (no VAT)
Playing Field Owner 2 (Playing Field Rent)	£80.00 (no VAT)
M Roberts (Phone Bill)	£16.30 (inc. £2.72 VAT)
M Roberts (Website)	£11.40 (inc. £1.90 VAT)
P M Paterson (Christmas Lights Competition S137)	£15.00 (no VAT)

* Paid as an interim payment on 28/12/24

(c) To approve updated account balances

Co-Operative Current Account	£7,121.27
Co-Operative Deposit Account	£10,543.76
Scottish Widows Business Fund 1	£19,852.16
Scottish Widows Business Fund 2	£4,319.15
Cambridge Building Society Deposit Account	£60,000.00

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed that the above listed payments would be made and balances be approved.

(d) Budget 2025-26

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed that the Draft Budget for 2025/26 would be adopted by the Council.

(e) Precept 2025-26

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed that the Council would set the precept for 2025/26 at £25,782.

(f) Graveyard Grant

The Clerk noted that the graveyard grant application for 2024 had been submitted to CWAC. In light of the increased maintenance costs for St. John's Church, councillors would be happy to receive a grant application in respect of any funding gap that may occur.

8. Grounds Maintenance

(a) Hare Lane Village Green

It was agreed that the Council would apply for a CWAC members' grant in order to fund the required groundworks.

(b) Play Area

It was noted that further quotes had been sought in respect of jet washing the area.

9. Primary School

Cllr Roberts reported that Revd. Carty was leaving the Parish. It was agreed that the Council would send a card to thank Revd. Carty for her work.

10. War Memorial

It was noted that damage had occurred to the War Memorial area during recent storms, due to a fallen tree. The Council placed on record its thanks for those who had helped in the immediate aftermath of the incident and during a clear up at a later date. Cllr Whelan, as tree officer, would consult with CWAC regarding the remaining structure of the tree. Cllr Littlewood would enquire with regards to the reinstatement of the streetlight.

11. Members Information

Cllr Littlewood noted that the Fete was being organised again this year.

Cllr Whelan noted that a number of properties had sold recently and asked if the Council had considered delivering a welcome pack to new residents.

Cllr Whelan enquired as to the Resilience plan.

Cllr Paterson noted that a number of pavements needed cleaning and whether this would be a suitable job for youth volunteers.

Cllr Roberts noted that almost £500 had been raised by a recent Christmas light display.

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the Council would exclude members of the public to discuss confidential information under the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

The outcome of a recent planning appeal was noted and the Clerk advised on a report from the Principal Authority.

Meeting closed at 21:16
