

GULDEN SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilden Sutton Parish Council held on Wednesday, 4th December 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 M Paterson

Clerk: Mr M Roberts

In attendance: Two members of the public.

1. Procedural Matters

(a) To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Littlewood and Cllr Roberts

Apologies were received and noted from Borough 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 6th November 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Paterson seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6th November 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting, subject to the addition of a payment of £100.00 + VAT to the Community Heartbeat trust at item 7b.

(d) Dates of future meetings.

2025 (provisional)

15th January

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

It was reported that no applications for co-option had been received. It was noted that the deadline for applications to be considered at the January meeting could be extended to 10th January.

2. Community Engagement/Communications

(a) Visiting members' speaking time

There were no visiting members.

(b) Visiting officers' speaking time

There were no visiting officers.

(c) Public Speaking Time

A member of the public wished to thank Cheshire Police with regards to two successful investigations following burglaries at a commercial premises.

A member of the public noted that the Station Lane footpath was listed on the agenda and would observe the discussion.

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

Correspondence had been received regarding a successful police investigation.

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

Cllr Davis reported that the issues of speeding on School Lane, lighting at the Village Hall, the bus service and the advertisement of a local commercial premises for sale had been raised.

It was agreed that Cllrs Paterson and Whelan would preside at the next surgery on 11th January.

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

A draft of the winter newsletter had been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Ringstead, seconded by Cllr Hughes and agreed that the newsletter and associated £10 gift voucher for the Christmas lights competition be approved.

(g) To receive a report from the Support Group

It was reported that volunteers had been sought to help deliver the upcoming newsletter.

(h) To consider matters regarding sustainability

Nothing further.

(i) CWAC Connections event.

Cllrs Davis and Paterson reported on the event. The process for volunteers to take on non-essential grounds maintenance tasks was covered. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach CWAC for a copy of their grass cutting standards.

3. Open Spaces

(a) Guilden Sutton GreenSpace

A report from the GreenSpace group had been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Ringstead and agreed that the group be authorised to reassign a portion of the previously paid grant to produce a newsletter covering Village-wide sustainability matters.

(b) Wildflower Garden

The Clerk noted that the group had received a quote for the installation of the recently purchased noticeboard and some ongoing additional grounds maintenance costs.

(c) Old School Field
Nothing further.

(d) Dog fouling

It was noted that a user of the trim trail had come into contact with some dog waste. It was agreed that a further reminder would be included in the newsletter.

(e) Grit Box

It was noted that the grit box had been repaired by a volunteer and there would be sufficient grit in situ to cover the first part of winter.

(f) Hilltop Road Wildflowers

It was noted that the ground was now covered and ready for planting in the spring.

4. Transport and Highways

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

Cllr Ringstead reported. It was noted that the fare cap would increase to £3 and this was with the intention of providing further investment in services.

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

Cllr Ringstead reported. The Clerk would write to the MP with the intention of starting a conversation around compulsory purchase.

(c) To receive an update on Community Speedwatch

Cllr Littlewood had reported, by correspondence, that it may be of benefit to the Council to purchase its own Tru-Cam. It was noted that this could be included in the budget for 2025-26.

5. Planning

(a) New applications:

24/03078/FUL	The Lodge School Lane 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	NO OBJECTION

	Distribution Network Operator (DNO) SP Manweb	
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 had attended a meeting on design codes. It was noted that rural collaboration was an option and the Clerk would investigate further.

6. Trees and Hedges

It was noted that Cllr Whelan would progress issues identified in the recent survey with the Local Authority.

7. Finance

(a) To note recent items of income:

Scottish Widows Account 1 Interest	£77.11
Scottish Widows Account 2 Interest	£16.78

(b) To approve recent items of spending:

M Roberts (Phone Bill)	£16.30 (inc. £2.72 VAT)
M Roberts (Salary)	At agreed rate
R Ringstead (Salary)	At agreed rate
HMRC (Payroll)	£136.80 (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)
R Whelan (Cable Ties)	£13.29 (inc. £2.33 VAT)
Greenbarnes Ltd (Wildflower Garden) from R9	£888.42 £1,066.10 (inc. £177.68 VAT)
Autela Payroll Limited (Payroll Services)	£75.05 (inc. £12.51 VAT)

(c) To approve updated account balances

Co-Operative Current Account	£11,322.55
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 Davis, seconded by Cllr Paterson and agreed that the above listed payments would be made and balances be approved. In addition, the Council approved the interim payment of December payroll and grounds maintenance on 28th December, with the details to be reported at the January meeting. The Clerk would process and Cllr Paterson would authorise.

(d) Banking Arrangements

It was reported that the new deposit account was now open and that work to consolidate and close the Scottish Widows accounts would commence in the New Year.

(e) Strategic Plan

The clerk noted that the initial draft of the 2025-26 budget was close to completion and would be circulated within the next few days. Subject to confirmations around a number of other issues (including the graveyard grant), this would be used as the baseline for the next 3-year plan.

(f) Graveyard Grant

It was agreed that members of the Finance working group would invite the Church treasurer for a detailed discussion of plans.

8. Grounds Maintenance

(a) Hare Lane Village Green

It was reported that due to recent roadworks volunteers had been unable to complete the groundworks as scheduled. Regrettably, this would need to be deferred until early in the New Year. The generous donation of a bench from the Community Association was noted.

(b) Play Area

It was noted that quotes had been requested for jetwashing of the Play Area surface.

9. Primary School

Cllr Hughes noted that pay increases agreed between the government and unions had not been met with additional resources, which would likely cause further budgetary constraints in the future. Several Christmas events would be held over the coming weeks.

Cllr Davis noted that he had written to the school in a personal capacity over the issue of parking on Arrowcroft Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and MP with regards to increased police visibility at School times.

10. Remembrance Sunday

Members reported that the road closure had been well observed.

11. Members Information

Cllr Ringstead noted that she had been asked to discuss the partnership between the Council and Men in Sheds. It was further noted that the group now involved youths who were struggling in mainstream education.

Cllr Davis noted that the Church would be holding a Christmas event on 24th December.

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was noted that there were no exempt items for discussion.

Meeting closed at 2057.
